

BLACK HISTORY MATTERS



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



#BLACKBUSINESSMATTER



#INDYACCOMPLICESHIP

EQUITY MATTERS

Black history has been about imagining what was possible despite our current circumstances. We continue to dream while taking direct action towards a world of new possibilities for Black people and communities of color.

Launched Indy Black Businesses Matter supporting over 120 Black businesses resulting in 66% of businesses reporting new customers and 92% reporting increased access to information.

Trained over 1,000 people in inclusive hiring and implicit bias training.

Donated over 10% of profits to Black-led charities and grassroots organizations.

Conducted community-wide surveys reaching over 1,000 Black residents and nearly 250 Black businesses.

Used data to influence public policy at the city and state level leading to the creation of the city's first City-County Council Youth Commission and relaunch of the Indianapolis Commission on African American Males.

Launched city's only Black-owned public affairs firm Crossroads Public Affairs, LLC.

Launched Equity1821, Inc., the city's first Black-led loan fund with \$1 million from the city.

Supported the strategic growth and development of the city's only Black-led credit union, Mt. Zion Indianapolis Federal Credit Union.

Supported launch of Indianapolis Urban League Entrepreneurship Center.

Supported development of Business Equity for Indy initiative.

Launched Indy Accompliceship to bring accountability and metrics to the workplace, workforce, marketplace, and community.

Maintained 90% spend with Black-owned businesses through supplier diversity program.

And we are just getting started...

WE SALUTE OUR PARTNERS WHO HELP US PURSUE A WORLD WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

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A'Le'lia Bundles

A'LELIA BUNDLES NAMED FELLOW AT IUPUI, HONORS MADAM WALKER WITH NEW HAIR CARE LINE

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

A'Le'lia Bundles, historian, journalist and great-great-granddaughter of entrepreneur Madam C.J. Walker, has been named the inaugural Prestigious Fellow at IUPUI's Center for Africana Studies and Culture.

Created with help from the center's director, Dr. Leslie Etienne, the position will allow Bundles to use her skillset and knowledge on various topics — including media, historical preservation and social justice — to help students and to bring scholars to IUPUI for speaking engagements.

The fellowship has three main components: a Bundles Scholar program, an annual Bundles Lecture series and an "In Conversation With" discussion series, which Bundles said she hopes will occur every quarter. The Bundles Scholar program will allow two Africana Studies students to do a research project and receive mentorship from Bundles and professors. The Bundles Lecture series will bring a guest speaker to campus once a year, and the "In Conversation With" series will be a moderated discussion with a "thought leader" in Indianapolis and a leader in a field germane to the topic being discussed.

Bundles said the position, along with initiatives being taken, such as the Re-think I-65 highway project, are signs that

the city is moving forward in its work to address historic harms.

"They're doing work to examine and acknowledge that communities were erased and destroyed with the construction of highways and through a lack of investment," Bundles said. "In order to make things better going forward, we have to acknowledge the damage that was done, and I think we're moving in the right direction."

Notably, the creation of IUPUI in 1969 resulted in the displacement of many families and businesses along Indiana Avenue — a predominately Black neighborhood — and downtown Indianapolis. In recent years, IUPUI has hosted community discussions and other events to examine its role in the gentrification of Indiana Avenue. In 2021, the school announced a scholarship program for descendants of people who were displaced by the university.

Though she'll continue living in Washington, D.C., Bundles looks forward to working with students in her hometown. The North Central High School graduate said it hasn't been difficult to reconcile her love for Indianapolis with the work that needs to be done.

"You love your family, but you also can see where some things need to be improved, and I feel that way about Indianapolis," Bundles said. "I have a great affection for Indianapolis and

feel very fortunate to have grown up in Indianapolis ... so there is a lot that I love about the city, but Indianapolis is not unique in inequities that developed because of disinvestment in neighborhoods. For me as a person who loves her city, it's important to find the positives, and it's important to acknowledge that harm was done here."

Along with her new role at IUPUI, Bundles is also celebrating the launch of MADAM By Madam C.J. Walker, a new line of hair care products created by Sundial Brands.

While the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company — launched in 1906 — never really went out of business, the trademark was sold in the 1980s before being bought by Sundial Brands in 2013. Cara Sabin, CEO of Sundial, worked with Bundles and a team of chemists and marketers to create 11 new products under the Madam Walker line. Available now, the line includes shampoo and conditioners, as well as curl cream, braid spray and a healthy scalp serum.

"We're so excited to be announcing the launch of MADAM by Madam C.J. Walker — a collection designed to carry on Madam Walker's legacy as an innovator, trailblazer and activist," Sabin said in a press release. "The products were created for polycultural women who proudly lead their lives, unbothered by society's ideals of how they should look,

feel, and present themselves. MADAM by Madam C.J. Walker celebrates the multi-dimensionality of women with textured hair, enabling them to switch it up while promoting a healthy scalp, stronger hair and unlimited styling possibilities."

The hair care line is available now at Walmart nationwide, and Bundles said the products fall in line with Walker's intention when she started her company over a century ago and she's excited to see her great-great-grandmother's legacy continue.

"I do these projects and plant seeds here and there, and some things blossom," Bundles said. "I never know exactly what's going to happen or what the flower is going to look like, but I'm so excited about the things that have developed. ... I'm at a stage in my life where I've had some really great experiences as a journalist and a biographer, and I feel a desire to download some of that information to the next generation and give them some of the tools I hope will help them be strong and courageous people, and I'm excited for the opportunity to delve into wonderful things about Indianapolis and the ways I know we are working to be better."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



George P. Stewart: 1895-1924

Marcus C. Stewart Sr.: 1925-1983

Eunice Trotter: 1988-1990

William G. Mays: 1990-present

CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF THE BOLD BLACK PRESS

By STAFF

The Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper, the nation's fourth-oldest African American newspaper, is celebrating 127 years of being a voice for the community and serving the underserved while maintaining a high level of journalistic integrity.

Not many Black-owned businesses — or businesses in general — have existed for 127 years! This accomplishment is a testament to the Recorder's significance to the city of Indianapolis — not just the African American community.

What began in 1895 as a two-page church bulletin, created by co-founders George P. Stewart and William Porter, now hails as Indiana's Greatest Weekly by con-

sistently providing the community with up-to-date local and national news grounded in journalistic excellence.

Stewart and Porter, a local attorney, operated a commercial printing company at 122 W. New York St., which was also the original location of the Recorder. Porter sold his shares of the paper to Stewart in 1899, and the newspaper remained in the Stewart family until 1988 when local journalist Eunice Trotter purchased the company.

After becoming sole owner, Stewart moved to 414 Indiana Ave. in 1900. He moved two more times, 236-40 W. Walnut St. and 518-20 Indiana Ave., before settling into the current location, 2901 N. Tacoma Ave., in 1975.

Despite the oftentimes overt systemic racism of the early years, intimidation via death threats directed

at its journalists from the Ku Klux Klan, burglary of its offices, and the hard-hitting economic crisis the Recorder has remained steadfast in upholding the mission encapsulated on its masthead, "preparing a conscious community today and beyond."

"I joined the Recorder because of its rich culture and unique legacy," said Recorder Media Group President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Shegog, who began leading the historic media organization in June 2018. "While I'm not a journalist by trade, I understand the power of the written word. Not only does the Recorder hold itself to the highest journalistic standards, but we're also a voice for the underrepresented — especially in today's media climate where only a few are heard above the cacophony. We are truly for us, by us."

PUBLISHERS

WILLIAM G. MAYS: 1990-PRESENT

In 1990, entrepreneur and civic leader William G. “Bill” Mays, the founder of Mays Chemical Company, purchased the Recorder, reviving it through financial contributions and connecting the publication to key city leaders and organizations. Due to Mays’ reputation in the state of Indiana and throughout the country, he drew a great deal of attention the Recorder, which helped establish major advertising deals for the newspaper. His focus was to ensure the Recorder remains one of the best newspapers in the country while sharing positive and useful Black news with the local community. Although Mays died in 2014, he is still recognized as publisher due to the lasting impact of his contributions and legacy.

EUNICE TROTTER: 1988-1990

Longtime and respected journalist Eunice Trotter purchased the Indianapolis Recorder in 1988. With Trotter’s journalism experience, the publication began to focus less on crime and more on the positive aspects of the community. Under the leadership of Trotter, the company updated much of the equipment needed to produce the weekly paper.

MARCUS C. STEWART SR.: 1925-1983

As the Indianapolis Recorder continued to expand and include more pages and special sections, it remained a family business under the control of Marcus C. Stewart, the son of co-founder George P. Stewart. During the Marcus Stewart era, the publication covered a lot of issues related to crime and politics in Indianapolis and within the state of Indiana.

GEORGE P. STEWART: 1895-1924

In 1895, George P. Stewart and William H. Porter founded the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper. Originally a two-page church bulletin with an emphasis on statewide news for African Americans, the Recorder expanded to a weekly publication to encourage the Black community to become more civically involved and stand up for equality.

PRESIDENTS

ROBERT SHEGOG: 2018-CURRENT

President and CEO Robert Shegog believes deeply in the legacy of the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper and takes tremendous pride in the trust that the historic publication has earned and maintained in its 127-year-old history. Since his tenure, Shegog has been instrumental in building continuity across the company’s platforms, amplifying community engagement strategies, and ensuring that the Recorder’s coverage is always representative of the community. Shegog’s high expectations for himself and his team have led to the Recorder remaining one of the top African American newspapers in the country. He and his team continue to usher in a new era of leadership with the charge to extend the rich legacies of the Indianapolis Recorder and Indiana Minority Business Magazine for generations to come. Shegog is credited for his innovative approach to newsgathering, which has led to the expansion of a robust newsroom staff that has garnered over 40 awards over the past two years alone. The honors are from distinguished journalism entities including, but not limited to, the Hoosier State Press Association, the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the Society of Professional Journalists.

SHANNON WILLIAMS: 2010-2018

In 2010, Shannon Williams continued the efforts of predecessor Carolene Mays-Medley to develop the Indianapolis Recorder into one of the best newspapers in the country. As a result of her extensive background in journalism and communications, Williams helped carry on a solid company structure while assisting newsroom staff with crafting quality articles on positive and useful news in the African American community. In addition, the Recorder Advisory Council and Recorder Media Group were created under Williams’ leadership. A major focus during this time was placed on electronic media, including expansion of the website and social media platforms. Williams also increased the Recorder’s presence in the community and sought to attract younger readers. In 2011, the Indianapolis Recorder became the first African American newspaper to digitize its archive editions.

CAROLENE MAYS-MEDLEY: 1998-2010

In 1998, William “Bill” Mays asked his niece, Carolene Mays-Medley, to take charge of the Indianapolis Recorder and help bring it back to life as the new century approached. Mays-Medley made the business more profitable within one year and enhanced its editorial content. Under her tenure, the building’s structure was significantly improved. Its exterior was painted and the sales associate offices were remodeled. Mays-Medley also instituted better pay for Recorder employees. In addition, full color and specific sections of the paper were introduced during this time. Mays-Medley, who also served in the state legislature during much of her time at the Recorder, also heightened the Recorder’s presence in the community locally and nationally.

CHARLES BLAIR: 1991-1997

Charles Blair became vice president and general manager in 1991. He pushed the publication to become more directly involved in the community through initiatives such as circulation promotions, bike giveaways for children and more. Blair also welcomed youth into the company by increasing paper deliveries by children. Under Blair’s tenure, the publication’s circulation increased by 40% and advertising revenue doubled.



Robert Shegog: 2018-current



Shannon Williams: 2010-2018



**Carolene Mays-Medley:
1998-2010**



Charles Blair: 1991-1997

BILL MAYS SOARED IN BUSINESS AND SAVED THE RECORDER

By TYLER FENWICK
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Bill Mays, whose philanthropic and business footprints stretched all over Indianapolis, prioritized the advancement and preservation of the city's African American community. His two most celebrated accomplishments: starting what became one of the nation's largest minority-owned businesses in Mays Chemical Company, and buying the Recorder. Mays died in 2014 at 69 years old.

Founded in 1980 as a one-man operation, Mays Chemical is the 43rd-largest Black-owned business in the country by revenue, according to Black Enterprise. Mays Chemical provides chemicals to manufacturers in the auto, pharmaceutical, food and beverage industries. Mays retired from executive leadership in 2011, after having invested his time and money into more than 100 companies and donating millions to philanthropic causes.

Bill West, who worked closely with Mays at the company, recalled the late legendary media personality Amos Brown asking sometime in the late 1980s how many organizations Mays Chemical supported. West guessed it was around 40 or 50, but he went back to the previous year's ledger and found out it was actually 160.

"That wasn't even a busy year," West said. "That was a normal year."

Mays required those at his company to be involved in the community, whether that was serving on boards of directors or volunteering a weekend afternoon for a community event. West said Mays would sometimes walk into people's offices to tell them he'd just gotten back from a meeting and volunteered them for something he didn't personally have time for.

That Mays turned himself into such a success wasn't surprising to those

who knew him before the days of Mays Chemical, including college roommate and lifelong friend Edwin Marshall.

"One of the driving statements he made that I still follow today is that it's always about access," Marshall remembered. "You don't have to take advantage of everything that comes your way, but you want to be prepared for the opportunities that arise."

Mays and Marshall were in the same fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, at Indiana University in Bloomington, and lived in an apartment together their last couple years of college. They were opposites in some ways — Marshall said he hated to clean, while Bill seemed to love it — but went on to godfather each other's children.

When Mays bought the Recorder in 1990, the newspaper was in danger of going out of business. Mays was a well-established figure in the community by that point and was approached regularly with different opportunities. But as West remembered, the Recorder was special to Mays, and he wanted to see the paper get to its 100th anniversary in 1995.

"That was important for him," West said. "He wanted to see that. He wanted to make sure that happened."

The Recorder not only survived, but it grew. Readership went from about 10,000 when he purchased the newspaper to where it is today at around 100,000. When Mays died, former Recorder President Shannon Williams expressed the company's gratitude to its savior.

"I am grateful he had the insight and passion to purchase the Indianapolis Recorder Newspaper at a time when it was at its most vulnerable," Williams said at the time in a statement. "His efforts helped to preserve the history of African-Americans in Indiana."

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



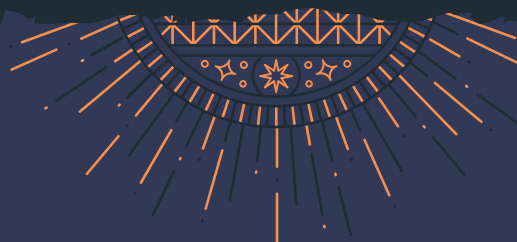
Mays Chemical Company, Inc.

proudly celebrates

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

and Salutes

Fellow Indianapolis African-American Community Leaders



**SUCCESS IS NOT
IMPORTANT IF YOU
DON'T SHARE IT.**

William G. Mays



William G. Mays
Founder of Mays Chemical Company, Inc.
1945 - December 4 - 2014



Kristin Mays Corbitt
President



MAYS CHEMICAL COMPANY, INC.

5611 East 71st Street Indianapolis, IN 46220
www.MaysChem.com

BELMONT BEACH EVENTS 'SHINE A POSITIVE LIGHT' ON WEST SIDE

By BREANNA COOPER
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When Tedd Hardy began the Belmont Beach project in 2021, he hoped the space would serve as a hotbed for community events, as it had in the past. With events ranging from "Sunday Fundays" to movie nights, Hardy saw his vision come to life.

The park, which included an exhibit depicting the history of the beach, soon garnered enthusiasm and support from the community, leading to a calendar full of events for 2021. Many Sundays, visitors participated in community forums and games, including community chess.

"The Belmont Beach Project is very important, as this type of development will bring awareness to the community and shine a positive light on the progress being made on the westside of Indianapolis," Hardy, a community ambassador for the Central Indiana Community Foundation, said.

Supported with a grant from Lilly Endowment, the Belmont Beach Project reimagined what was once the only spot on the city's west side where Black residents could swim. Initially, Belmont Beach wasn't segregated. When it became clear that water in the Emrichsville Dam at Belmont Beach — a section of the White River — was too polluted from companies dumping industrial chemicals and slaughterhouse waste, city officials named the Haughville beach a Black-only beach.

Historian Paul Mullins called the beach the "epitome of environmental racism — Black residents were only allowed to be in water deemed too degraded to be of use to white residents."

FORMAL OPENING OF NEW WEST SIDE BEACH SATURDAY



Belmont Beach was a popular spot for African Americans in Indianapolis during the 1930s. (Photo from the Recorder archives)

Despite dangerous water conditions, Black families on the west side often gathered at Belmont to swim and have picnics.

While you can't swim at Belmont Beach today, the pop-up park has provided visitors with entertainment and a reminder of what Belmont Beach used to be for the

Black community in Indianapolis.

Events — including sports, movie nights and concerts — took place from May through Oct. 31, 2021. In November 2021, materials that were used to build the park and staging were repurposed for other events and programs in the

community. Though the project was a temporary pop-up site, Hardy hopes it leads to more development in the Haughville area for years to come.

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



Honoring Individuals Giving Back to their Communities

During Black History Month, AARP recognizes all of the people taking action to give back and help build up their communities. The efforts of one person can truly make an impact, but when our efforts drive change for the greater good, we thrive together.

Community starts with you.

Visit us at aarp.org/in



ALISIA JACKSON CONTINUES EXPANDING PRIDE ACADEMY

By TYLER FENWICK
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If you ever run into Alisia Jackson and start talking about everything she's done through Pride Academy for the last 22 years, do yourself a favor and grab a chair. Your legs will get tired if you try to stand through the whole thing.

Jackson is exuberant, and just when you start thinking there's no way someone can stay this motivated for two decades, she steps back and offers a perspective that makes it all clearer.

"Wherever I go, the Lord has blessed me that it's hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people that go with me," Jackson said.

Pride Academy is a lot of things. There's a program for newborns, infants and toddlers to promote early learning and development. The organization also has a certified preschool program. From there, students in K-8 have before- and after-school programs that include music lessons, science projects and computer classes. Once students age out of the programs, they can become junior counselors for Pride Academy camps that happen throughout the year.

Jackson isn't ready to step away yet, but at this point, she's had students make their way through every stage — all the way from newborns to graduating high school — and she thinks maybe someday one of them will come back to replace her as executive director.

It doesn't sound like that will happen soon, though.

The program's new director, Cameron Brown, said one thing that makes Jackson special is the simple fact that she chooses to do this work. He compared her to athletes who are constantly perfecting their craft.

"She's one person I know for sure doesn't sleep," Brown said.

Jackson found her inspiration for

Pride Academy through nearly three decades of working at Eli Lilly. The company has an annual day of service, and Jackson would always suggest doing work in the inner city but said that never happened. So she decided to do it for herself.

Jackson got a 2,000-square-foot building on Sherman Drive and figured she'd spend her time helping with homework and getting meals. She got a wash-

ing machine so she could clean clothes.

"Lo and behold," Jackson said, "22 years later and I'm still doing the same thing."

Well, that and a lot more.

Pride Academy now has a transportation company designed to employ fathers. The organization helps them get a commercial driver's license and can assist in expunging felonies for those who have a criminal record.

For Christmas last year they gave away 30,000 items and took 200 children shopping at Kohl's. The organization partners with Walmart to give away 5,000 backpacks with school supplies, uniforms and new shoes before school starts, and there's a second supply giveaway during the school year.

Jackson said her favorite thing is the gardens. The produce feeds children in the program, and students can also sell



Students line up for their graduation from Pride Academy's pre-K program. (Photos provided by Pride Academy)

it at farmers markets.

Pride Academy also recently partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build 10 homes in Marion County through 2026.

Radio and TV personality Kelly Vaughn has seen this from Jackson for a long time. Vaughn used to put together radio commercials for Jackson and said it's not unusual to get texts from Jackson at 2 or 3 in the morning.

"When does she sleep?" Vaughn said.

Jackson speaks with a great sense of pride, and it's easy to see why. Still, she can't help but also think about the children lost along the way, the ones who made a mistake and ended up in the system.

"My heart aches for the ones I couldn't reach," she said.

Jackson counts it all as motivation. It's why she wanted an expungement program with the trucking company. It's why she wants to build more homes, help students get scholarships, even start a school.

And after 22 years, some things are coming full circle. Jackson said a student hugged her recently, and it reminded her of the hugs she used to get from the boy's father when he was part of Pride Academy — one of the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people who's gone with her through the years.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



Pride Academy summer camps are held at Indy Parks every year.

Pride Academy has outdoor space for students, including garden beds to grow produce.

BLACK HISTORY IS AMERICAN HISTORY

THE INDIANAPOLIS COLTS ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER AND THE CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH





Our team is proud to celebrate Black History Month!

Year-round, we work to support and empower African American students, families, educators and community members so that every student – no exceptions – can have access to a great school.

Our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commitment:

The Mind Trust is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in all we do to ensure present and future educational success for all students in Indianapolis. Upholding these principles is critical for our staff, Fellows, community stakeholders, and partners to spark radical systemic change.

We recognize the past and continued existence of institutional racism, discrimination, privilege, and oppression in our education system and society at-large, in particular its adverse effects on students of color.



Our School Fellows:



Brandon House
Innovation School Fellow



Morris Harbour
Innovation School Fellow
Founder, Liberty Grove Schools



James Hill
Innovation School Fellow



Francisco Valdiosera
Innovation School Fellow
Founder, Monarca Academy

Our current initiatives and programs:

- * Indy Summer Learning Labs
- * Educator Assistance Fund
- * School and teacher leader fellowships
- * Education resources for families
- * Go Farther Literacy Fund
- * Events for students, families, and educators

Visit our website to learn more! www.themindtrust.org



Honoring a Trailblazer Willa Beatrice Brown



Republic Airways would like to recognize an aviation pioneer and Hoosier, Willa Beatrice Brown. Brown was the first African American woman to receive both a private and commercial pilot's license in addition to being a certified aircraft mechanic. Willa will officially join the National Aviation Hall of Fame as a member of its 2022 class this coming Fall.



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INDIANAPOLIS RECORDER OUR FUTURE IS POWERFUL VOICES

In recognition of 125 years of excellence, we're celebrating Powerful Voices.

This program is closing the opportunity gap for black and brown students. Find out how you can participate.

Powerful Voices supports the JAWS program, which helps young students of color begin their career pursuit through all aspects of journalism including mixed media creative arts, broadcast journalism and writing not only with the Indianapolis Recorder, but wherever their careers may take them.

RAISING THE BAR FOR JOURNALISM

JAWS has helped black and brown students for the last 27 years to develop skills, make industry connections and launch their careers from an early age.

We've launched this fundraising effort to reach more young people and to inspire and invest in these students in minority communities, right here in Indianapolis. The future of our work-not just of the Indianapolis Recorder-but the future of journalism itself depends upon these talented young people,

and they depend on you.

Investing in children in all forms of broadcast media.

We have already seen that investing in our children makes a difference for minority children, but also for the broadcast and journalism industry as a whole. The journalism and broadcast media industry needs distinct and compelling voices, including voices who bring diversity and perspective to the profession.

SUPPORT FUTURE POWERFUL VOICES.

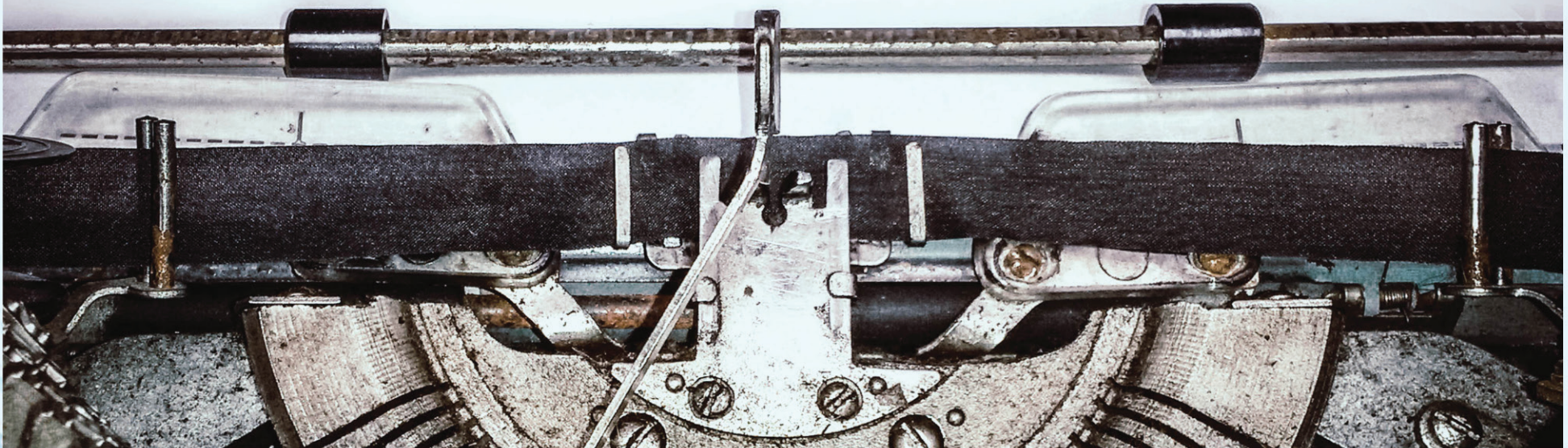
At Indianapolis Recorder, the last 125 years have been impactful to our whole community, and we want to ensure that we continue on that path of success by investing in youth. The JAWS program develops professional journalism industry skills for children in broadcast media, videography, graphic design, digital media and writing.

Indianapolis Recorder is asking you to join us. Because of mentors, visionaries and donors like you, our future is Powerful Voices.

To donate today please visit:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/indianapolis-recorder-charities-inc/powerful-voices>

The Indianapolis Association of Black Journalists (IABJ) is a nonprofit organization that has served African-American journalists for over 25 years. IABJ is Indiana's most prominent group of veteran, young, and aspiring black journalists. Our national organization (NABJ) strives to unite Black journalists dedicated to excellence, diversity in news coverage, and full equality in the industry.



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INDIANAPOLIS ASSOCIATION
OF BLACK JOURNALISTS

GANGGANG 'HUMBLED' BY RESPONSE FROM ARTISTS, COMMUNITY

By TYLER FENWICK
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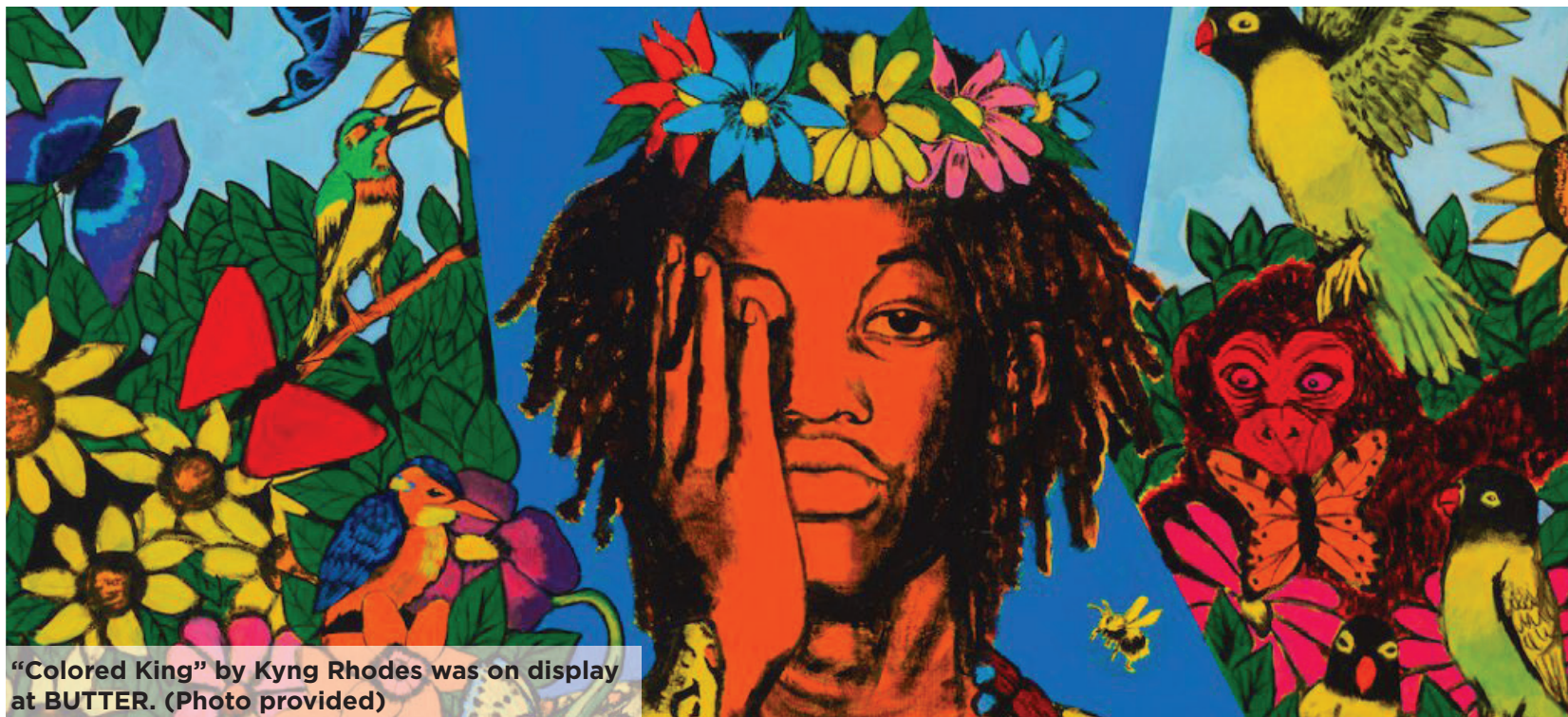
It's safe to say GANGGANG has survived the first phase of a startup, where an idea stands on wobbly knees and seems just as likely to fall as it is to stand.

Co-founder Alan Bacon said that's because the creative community in Indianapolis was ready for the cultural development firm when he started it with Malina Jeffers in November 2020.

"We've truly been blessed to do this type of work," Bacon said. "Just humbled by the response of people. Not only the creatives we serve but the entire Indianapolis community."

GANGGANG has had big-time exposure, including booking more than 200 performances during the NCAA basketball tournament in 2021, but it was a fine art fair that marked a turning point for the organization.

BUTTER was a multi-day fair in September 2021 that gave Black artists in Indianapolis opportunities to expand their portfolios and get more eyes on their work. It took off in the community, and Bacon said he was especially proud because it was the first time GANGGANG got to create its own vision for something rather than working through a part-



"Colored King" by Kyng Rhodes was on display at BUTTER. (Photo provided)

nership with other groups.

Artists kept all of the money from sales. Before the fair, Jeffers told the Recorder she wanted to bring the feel of a high-end art event to the Midwest.

"There are art shows here in town that feature Black artists," she said, "and we just thought we could do shows better justice and be more intentional and authentic and figure out how we can elevate the narrative around the Black talent in Indianapolis."

Bacon said the next BUTTER event will be Labor Day weekend.

GANGGANG also partnered with the Recorder to create a mural at the Stutz Business Center

as part of BUTTER. The mural, "Keepers of Culture," creates a 3D effect and features eight Black icons from Indianapolis, including actress Vivica A. Fox and local creatives Rob Dixon and Mariah Ivey.

GANGGANG is big now, making it to the pages of The New York Times and being recognized as a 2021 Newsmaker by the Indianapolis Business Journal.

The next step forward for the organization is a fellowship program, Naptown Next Up, that launched in late 2021.

Bacon said the goal is to find emerging artists in Indianapolis — ones who are "right at the ceil-



"Keepers of Culture" by Ashley Nora celebrates Indianapolis icons who have made an impact on the arts and cultural scene of the city and beyond. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)

ing of success" — and give them the type of investment that goes beyond just getting their next gig. It's a natural progression from the foundation of GANGGANG because, in

both cases, Bacon said it's about answering complex questions.

What does it mean to truly invest in an artist? What does equity look like?

GANGGANG is finding out.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

Rev. Henry H. Horton, founding pastor of Wallace Temple AME Zion Church, stands behind a group of children circa 1950. (Photo provided by family)



ANDERSON CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

By TYLER FENWICK
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Henry H. Horton was one of the earliest travelers in what's become known as the Great Migration, when some 6 million African Americans fled the rural South to the North and West. Horton, who left Montgomery County, Alabama, in 1915, landed in Anderson.

It was there, six years later, where Horton started a church in his home at 1920 Park Ave. He called the church Wallace Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church after Bishop Paris Arthur Wallace, the presiding bishop of the Indiana Conference at the time.

Three church buildings and 27 more pastors later, church members and Horton's descendants celebrated the 100th anniversary of Wallace Temple AME Zion Church with a two-day celebration in September 2021. It included a picnic, morning worship and a centennial celebration event.

Family historian Celena Bostic Perry, Horton's great-niece, is old enough to remember Horton but not old enough to recall many details. She's relied on interviews with family who are in their 70s and 80s to learn more about who Horton was, and the consistent theme is love.

"They spoke of him with reverence," said Perry, who is working on a book about Horton, the AME church and Wallace Temple AME Zion Church.

Horton was born April 5, 1882, in Pike Road, Alabama, which is near the capital of Montgomery. He was the eighth of 13 children. Many followed him to Anderson, but the family still has roots in Alabama.

Horton was a carpenter who, as Perry wrote in a biography, "not only built buildings and things, but also helped to build the spiritual character of men, women and children." He started the church primarily for his family but soon had to accommodate a growing congregation. A two-story church building and a parsonage were built in 1945, and the current church was built on additional land in 1985.

Pauline Rolling-Davis, another of Horton's great-nieces, took piano lessons as a girl at Horton's house and attended church when he was the Sunday school superintendent. She remembers all of the children would gather in the sanctuary for the last 15 minutes and report what they learned to the congregation. Horton knew how much she enjoyed doing that, so even if Rolling-Davis didn't volunteer, he would often call on her.

"He was just a grand old man," she said.

Rolling-Davis' son, Derrick Wilkerson, was part of the anniversary committee and emceed the celebration. He was born in July 1963, one month after Horton died at the age of 81.

"He was a legend when I was a kid," Wilkerson said. "Uncle Henry represented excellence."

Horton's great-niece Sharon Hudson, who is Rolling-Davis' sister, said Horton would be proud of the current church, which is pastored by Rev. Antwaun J. Johnson.

Not everyone in the family who lives in the area still goes to Wallace Temple, but organizers hoped to bring family back together as part of the 100-year celebration.

There aren't many living family members who can say from firsthand experience what Horton was like, so Hudson and others want to make sure his legacy continues to live on.

"You don't have to be famous, rich or anything," Hudson said. "You don't have to have a Ph.D. Just do what you can to touch lives."

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



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BENJAMIN HARRISON PRESIDENTIAL SITE EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS BLACK CIVIC LEADERS

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

A new exhibit at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site details the role Black activists played in Indiana and the nation during the 23rd president's lifetime. "No Compact of Silence," which opened in January, features national icons such as Ida B. Wells, as well as local figures, including Kathleen Flossie Bailey.

Put together by IUPUI graduate student Kelly Poston, the exhibit examines voter suppression, anti-lynching laws and activism, as well as modern day social justice movements, including the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020.

"I think this exhibit is really going to bring in people from both parties (Republicans and Democrats) in the community to see that these major events that were happening in the 1890s are still very much happening in today's time. We still have white mob violence, lynching and voter suppression," Poston said. "By uplifting these voices, I'm hoping when people come, they themselves think, 'What can I be doing to be a civil rights advocate?' I want this to be an eye-opening exhibit."

Jennifer Capps, vice president of curatorship and exhibition at the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, said "No Compact of Silence" is an extension of the museum's previous exhibits about Harrison's relationship with abolitionist Frederick Douglass.

"We wanted to take a deeper look into the issues of Harrison's time period and other nationally and locally prominent advocates of that time," Capps said. "By sharing those stories, we hope to make people more aware of what was going on during Harrison's presidency."

The name, "No Compact of Silence," refers to Harrison's response to the question of Black suffrage, posed by Harri-

Indianapolis Public Schools 24 was named for former principal William McCoy. Now demolished, the school previously stood at 908 W. North St. McCoy is featured in the "No Compact of Silence" exhibit. (Photo/Breanna Cooper)



son's 1888 running mate, Whitelaw Reid.

"I would not be willing myself to purchase the Presidency for a compact of silence upon this question," Harrison wrote, meaning he would rather lose the presidency than falter on civil rights issues. Capps said this dedication to civil rights and justice led Harrison through his one term as president. Though unsuccessful, Harrison was the first president to propose a federal anti-lynching law, a cause that was championed locally by Flossie Bailey decades after Harrison's presidency.

In August 1930, two African American men — Thomas Shipp and Abram Smith — were lynched by a white mob in Marion.

Determined to put an end to lynching in the Hoosier state, Bailey, a Kokomo native, lobbied in the Indiana General Assembly to pass stricter anti-lynching laws. Thanks to Bailey, then-Gov. Harry Leslie signed a more comprehensive anti-lynching bill into law in 1931. By that time, Bailey was president of the Indiana chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Along with Bailey, the exhibit also includes information on William Mc-

See "No Compact of Silence"

When: Times vary through Nov. 1

Where: Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, 1230 N. Delaware St.

Cost: \$12 admission; \$7 seniors; toddlers, free

Coy, who was born in Cambridge City before settling in Indianapolis. McCoy was principal of Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) 23 and 24 from 1879 until 1890. Though it's since been demolished, IPS School 24 was named for him after his death. McCoy served as Harrison's council general to Liberia, a post he held until his death in 1893.

For Poston, who did the bulk of her research through newspaper articles and obituaries, Lillian Thomas Fox's story stuck out to her the most. While living in Indianapolis, Fox became the first Black columnist to write for a white newspaper in Indiana. She joined the staff of the Indianapolis News in 1900 and frequently wrote about lynching in her column, "News for the Colored People." She later went on to create the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women, as well as the Women's Improvement Club, the latter started with Beulah Wright Porter, who was the first female African American physician in Indianapolis.

"No Compact of Silence" comes at a time when voting rights are still being discussed, with members of the U.S. Senate blocking the John Lewis Voting Rights Act of 2021 earlier this year. While the timing wasn't intentional, Capps said the exhibit serves as an important reminder that we have to understand our history to understand modern-day issues.

"We have to learn more from our history, and this exhibit is very relevant in that respect," Capps said. "What you learn about in this exhibit, whether it's the 13th Amendment or the 1965 Civil Rights Act, it's important today because there's still concern about voting rights and civil rights protections."

The exhibit runs through Nov. 1. For more information, visit bhpsite.org.

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7884. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



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For a decade, members of Alpha and Omega Church of the Living God have recognized Black History Month by using displays, musical performances and movie nights to discuss prominent figures in Black history. (Photo provided by Vicki Hampton)



LOCAL CHURCH HONORS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Ten years ago, Vickie Hampton was concerned that children in her church, Alpha and Omega Church of the Living God, didn't know Black history. When she approached her pastor, Michael G. Swanson, about having a Black History Month program one week in February, he was on board. In the decade that followed, the program expanded into a full month of events, including displays, skits, movie nights and musical performances.

"I put together a board of Black inventors for children to look at," Hampton said. "I wanted them to see that we did that stuff back then and we can do it now. We can use our talent to be an electrician or learn how to build houses, anything like that. It's not just the white man that can do that. There's nothing that we can't do that they done."

Hampton, who works a lot with the children in her church, finds skits online for the children to perform during the programs, including one about Rosa Parks'

defiance on a Birmingham bus. She said she's seen the children's perspectives change as a result of the programming.

"A lot of the kids didn't know there was a time when Blacks couldn't drink out of the same water fountains, or that people were treated so badly by the police," Hampton said. "When we showed them the movie 'The Help,' they couldn't believe people were treated that way. So we have to be thankful for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and all the people that went before us and paved the way for us right now that we don't have to live that way."

Hampton encourages community members to participate in the programs as well, and often invites poets, African dance groups and musicians to the church on Sundays to share their talents and stories with the group. Historically, she said, churches have been a vessel for keeping and sharing family and community history. With Alpha and Omega's program, Hampton has been able to celebrate the special stories in their own congregation.

This year, the church celebrated member James Macon, who started a community outreach program to help mentor children after leaving the Air Force. His group, Able Blue, also collected clothes and other items for people in need.

Every year, the Black History Month programming closes with a community dinner and a movie night. This year, Hampton plans to show "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till," a 2005 film depicting the life and murder of 14-year-old Till. Hampton hopes the programs during February encourages people to learn more about Black history throughout the year.

"It's so important to me that people know about our history," Hampton said. "I had never in my life heard about Juneteenth until I started learning more about Black history, and we didn't hear about Rosa Parks in school, we have to know about our history so we can know what we're capable of now."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

BLACK MEMBERS OF BIDEN'S CABINET MARK BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Michael Regan (Photo/U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website)

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The six Black members of President Joe Biden's Cabinet on Feb. 10 celebrated Black History Month by discussing their roles, some of which are historic firsts.

Actor Taraji P. Henson and athletes Sloane Stephens and Nneka Ogwumike also took part in a separate discussion on the importance of mental health and wellness among Blacks.

Cedric Richmond, a former congressman who also is Black and is a top adviser to the president, moderated a conversation about Black leadership with the Cabinet members who advise Biden on everything from the military to foreign affairs to the economy.

Michael Regan, the first Black man to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, said during the livestreamed event that Black leadership is "extremely important."

"Diverse leadership is extremely important because this is a democracy and, in order for a democracy to work, its leadership should reflect the people that it represents," he said.

Other participants included Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, the first Black person in the post; Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge; U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield; and Cecilia Rouse, chair of the Council of Economic Advisers. Rouse is the first Black woman to lead the council.

Also present was Shalanda Young,

acting director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. Young is awaiting a Senate vote on her nomination to become the agency's director. She would be the first Black woman to lead the office if confirmed, which is expected.

Biden promised the most diverse Cabinet in U.S. history.

The conversation with Cabinet members was followed by a separate livestreamed event on the importance of mental health and wellness in the Black community, hosted by Susan Rice, Biden's domestic policy adviser, and Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, head of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in the Department of Health and Human Services.

Henson, tennis pro Stephens and Ogwumike of the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks shared stories of their challenges with mental health and wellness.

Henson opened the Boris Lawrence Henson Foundation, named for her late father, to help eliminate the stigma around mental health issues among African Americans and to provide resources.

The singer-actor said the foundation was borne "out of my own necessity" after her son's father died when the child was 9, followed soon after by the loss of her father, a Vietnam veteran who had struggled with his own issues.

"There's trauma there," she said. "When it came time to address it, I didn't know where to go."

Stephens, who won the U.S. Open title in 2017, has been the target of racist abuse on social media after losing matches.

Biden designated February as Na-



Cedric Richmond (Photo/Richmond's Facebook page)

tional Black History Month, writing in a proclamation that the observance “serves as both a celebration and a powerful reminder that Black history is American history, Black culture is American culture, and Black stories are essential to the ongoing story of America — our faults, our struggles, our progress, and our aspirations.”

Biden and his wife, Jill, and Vice President Kamala Harris

and her husband, Doug Emhoff, and Cabinet members will host commemorative events throughout February focused on the theme of “Black Health and Wellness,” White House press secretary Jen Psaki said.

The U.S. Secret Service hustled Emhoff out of a Black History Month event at Dunbar High School in Washington because of a bomb threat.



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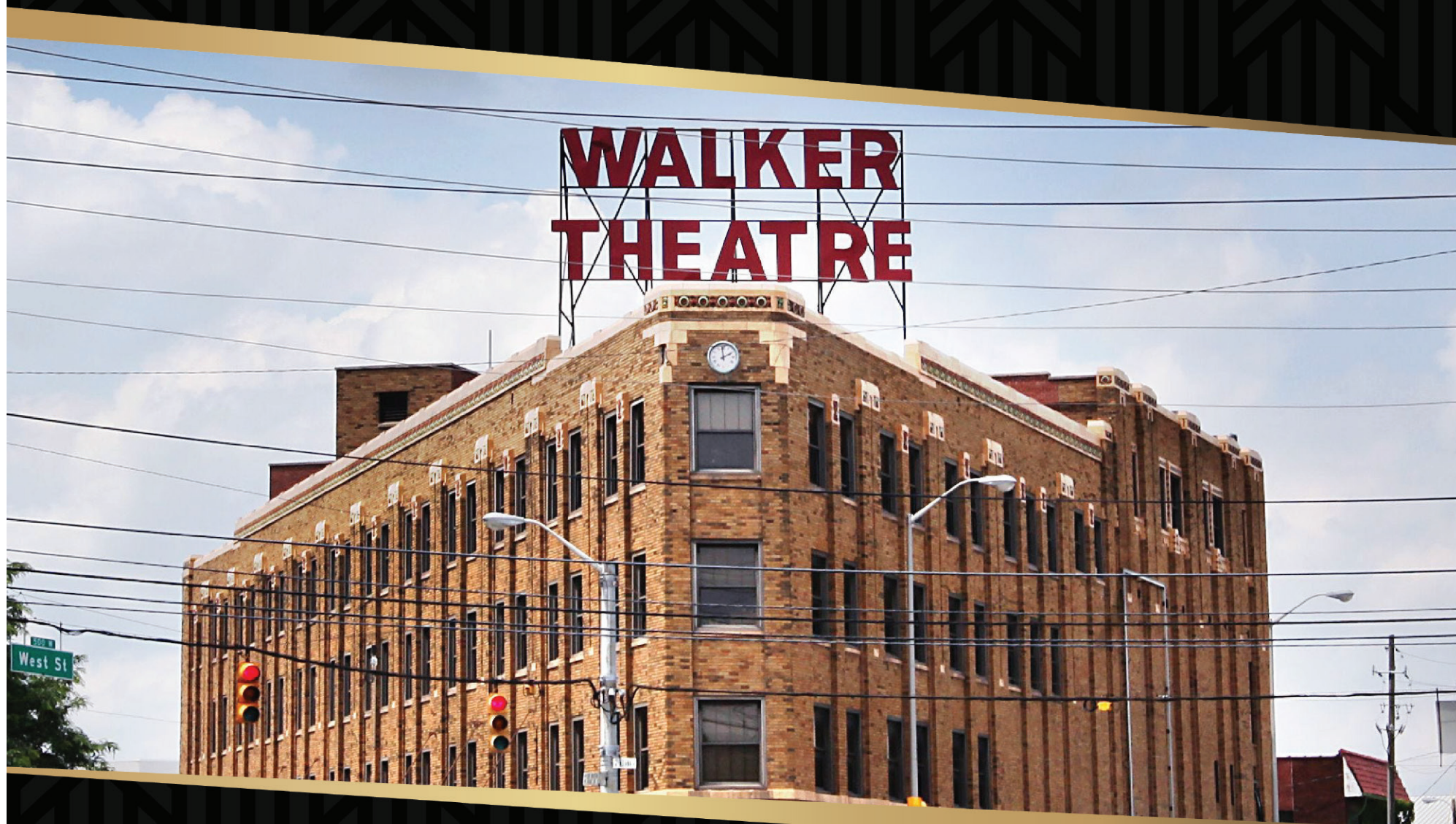
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MADAM WALKER MURAL HONORS TRAILBLAZER

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

An 11-foot tall and 75-foot long mural, “Entrepreneurs Awakening: The Making of a Legacy,” featuring Madam C.J. Walker was unveiled February 2021 at the Indianapolis International Airport.

Walker, who was the first self-made Black millionaire, made her mark on Indiana Avenue, when she relocated her beauty company to the city in 1910.

“This endeavor has been in the works for more than a year, and it took a diverse group of community partners and talented individuals to bring it to life,” said Indianapolis Airport Authority Executive Director Mario Rodriguez during the unveiling ceremony. “It is an incredible piece of artwork, worthy to represent the tremendous inspiration Madam Walker is to the history of American entrepreneurship and our great city.”

When local artist Tasha Beckwith was selected to create the mural by the Indianapolis Airport Authority and the Arts Council of Indianapolis, she reflected on what Walker meant to her as a Black woman from Indianapolis.

“When I see pictures of her in textbooks with her friends and in her Ford Model T, I just thought ... what a boss,” Beckwith said. “I wanted Hoosiers to see that she wasn’t afraid to take risks, and that it doesn’t matter where you start in life,



One panel of “Entrepreneurs Awakening: The Making of a Legacy,” by Tasha Beckwith. (Photo provided)

it’s where you end.”

Born Sarah Breedlove in the Louisiana Delta, Walker worked her way from laundress to a millionaire business owner and employed thousands of women in her Indianapolis shop and around the country.

“Madam Walker carved out opportunities not just for herself, but she shared them with others,” Vop Osili, president of the city-county council, said at the ceremony. “That is her real legacy. She beat the odds. But what we really need to be asking is why were the odds so long in the first place? We honor Madam Walker by creating a community that embraces and supports more Madam

Walkers.”

The mural, which consists of seven panels in the airport’s Civic Plaza, is part of the city’s Bicentennial Community Project and was endorsed by the Bicentennial Commission in October 2020. Beckwith was chosen out of hundreds of candidates nationwide to work with the Arts Council of Indianapolis and the Madam Walker Legacy Center.

“The restoration of the Madam Walker Legacy Center, and the partnerships created to ensure its sustainability, demonstrate this community’s dedication to preserving and honoring the legacy of our most influential leaders,” Madam

Walker Legacy Center Board Chairperson Joyce Rogers said in a press release. “This mural prominently displays our namesake for all to learn from and enjoy. It truly takes a village, and we are thankful to our partners for uplifting a rising star in our local arts community and aligning her with the empowering and inspirational legacy of Madam C.J. Walker.” At the unveiling ceremony, Mayor Joe Hogsett said Walker is a constant reminder of the importance of diversity.

“Madam C.J. Walker proved something valuable that we can still learn from,” Hogsett said. “That Black-owned businesses catering to the needs of Black

residents, more diversity in the workforce and giving back to the community can turn a huge profit. ... The real miracle of her life was the legacy she left in our city.”

Rodriguez estimates that roughly 10 million people will see the mural each year.

“I just hope it did her justice,” Beckwith said. “It’s mind-blowing to me that a Black woman in her day could have the kind of success she had.”

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaN-Cooper.

DID YOU KNOW?

BLACK HISTORY FACTS

By STAFF

In celebration of Black History Month, here are some facts celebrating Black excellence throughout history.



Thurgood Marshall



George Poage



Marie Selika Williams



Gladys West



Alice Ball

- George Poage became the first African American to win a medal at the Olympics, taking bronze in both the 220-yard and 440-yard hurdles in 1904.

- Alice Ball invented the first successful treatment for Hansen's disease (otherwise known as leprosy) in 1916. Ball was also the first African American and first woman to graduate with a master's degree from the University of Hawaii.

- Ethel Waters became the first Black performer to appear on TV when her one-night variety special, "The Ethel Waters Show," aired on NBC in 1939.

- Shirley Chisholm became the first Black woman to win a seat in Congress in 1968.

- The celebration of Black History Month began as "Negro History Week," which was created in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a Black historian, scholar and educator.

- Jackie Robinson became the first Black American to play Major League Baseball when he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947.

- Marie Selika Williams became the first Black musician to sing at the White House when she performed for President Rutherford Hayes and First Lady Lucy Webb Hayes in 1878.

- Mae Jemison became the first Black woman to be admitted into NASA's astronaut training program in 1987.

- Althea Gibson became the first Black tennis player to compete at the U.S. National Championships in 1950.

- In 1956, Gladys West was hired as a mathematician by the U.S. Naval Proving Ground in 1956, and she invented an accurate model of Earth that was used to create the Global Positioning System (GPS).

- Jack Johnson became the first African American man to win the World Heavyweight Champion boxing title in 1908.

- Thurgood Marshall was the first Black person ever appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson and served on the court from 1967 to 1991.



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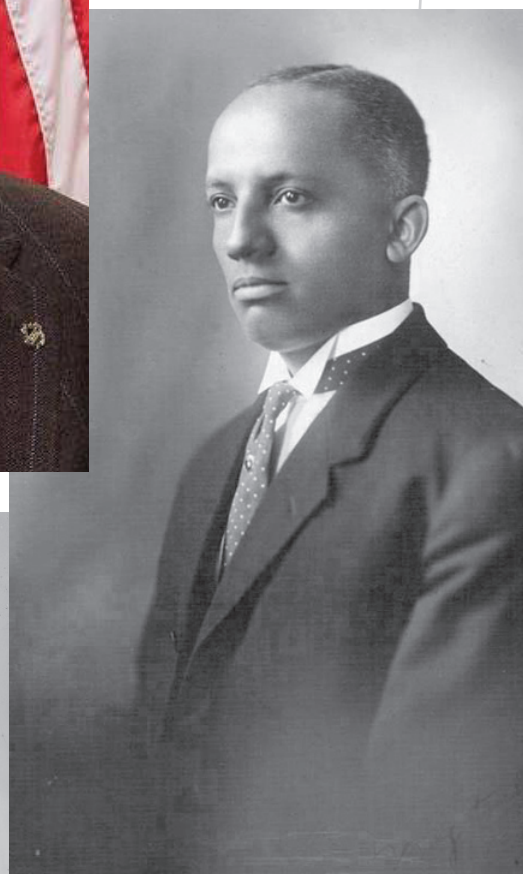
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Willie O'Ree



Carter G. Woodson



Hiram Rhodes

- George Washington Carver developed 300 derivative products from peanuts, including cheese, milk, coffee, flour, ink, dyes, plastics, wood stains, soap, linoleum, medicinal oils and cosmetics.
- Hiram Rhodes Revels was the first Black person ever elected to the U.S. Senate. He represented the state of Mississippi from February 1870 to March 1871.
- Before Oprah Winfrey and Michael Jordan joined the billionaire's club, Robert Johnson became the first African American billionaire when he sold the cable station he founded, Black Entertainment Television (BET), in 2001.
- Madam C.J. Walker was born on a cotton plantation in Louisiana and became wealthy after inventing a line of African American hair care products. She established Madame C.J. Walker Laboratories and was also known for her philanthropy.
- In January 2021, Kamala Harris became the first woman of African or Asian descent to become vice president. Harris' mother immigrated to the United States from India and her father immigrated from Jamaica.
- Black Americans held their first large-scale convention in Philadelphia in 1830, and the gathering (which marked the start of the National Negro Conventions Movement) led to the formation of the American Society of Free Persons of Color. Bishop Richard Allen, who founded the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was made president of the society, and he worked to coordinate civil rights efforts locally.
- For her role as Mammy in "Gone with the Wind," Hattie McDaniel won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress in 1940, becoming the first Black American to win an Oscar.
- Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black person to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for her book "Annie Allen," which chronicles the evolution of a young Black girl into womanhood through poetry.
- Though he only ended up playing 45 games during his career, Willie O'Ree will always be remembered as the National Hockey League's first Black player, and he continues to fight for more diversity in the sport.
- The final convention movement in 1864 — presided over by Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass — led to the founding of the National Equal Rights League, an organization that pushed for full political rights for Black Americans as compensation for military service in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

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Katina Washington
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Photography by Ralph Vandale

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HISTORIC CORETTA SCOTT HOME WHERE SHE WED MLK NOW FORGOTTEN

By JAY REEVES
Associated Press

MARION, Ala. (AP) — Bullet holes pock a rusted mailbox outside the vacant home where Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott were married in 1953. Part of the old wooden structure has collapsed, as have nearby utility buildings.

Most any place connected to the best-known voice of the Civil Rights Movement is a magnet for tourists, particularly around the January holiday honoring King's birthday and in February during Black History Month. His birthplace in Atlanta is a national historic park; the parsonage where he and his wife lived in

Montgomery is part of the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

Yet the spot where the Kings spent one of the most important days of their lives — the childhood home of Coretta Scott King, who went on to found the King Center in Atlanta following her husband's assassination in 1968 — sits all but unknown on the side of a two-lane highway in rural Perry County, one of Alabama's poorest places. Even some locals remain largely unaware of its historical importance.

"I don't really know anything about the house," said Kay Beckett, president of the Perry County Historical and Preservation Society.

An expert said the Scott home is one of many important Black historical sites that have been forgotten across the nation.

"It's actually more typical than you'd imagine. We pass by many Black heritage sites every day, standing in plain sight seemingly without history or meaning. Yet, these overlooked places hold exceptional cultural and educational value," said Brent Leggs, executive director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The action fund recently received a \$20 million donation to preserve Black churches, and it has raised more than \$70 million to assist with more than 200 preservation projects nationally since being started following the deadly "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017. Yet the Scott and King families' wedding venue is all but off the radar.

There's no single reason why the place is a forgotten relic, officials say. One problem is that it's far off the beaten path for travelers, nowhere near a major highway and about 75 miles (121 kilometers) from Birmingham to the northeast or Montgomery to the east.

Also, it's privately owned and not open to the public. Tax records show the property is owned by Bernice King, the couple's youngest daughter, and not much has ever been done with it. Bernice King didn't respond to email messages about the home that were sent to aides at The King Center, where she works as chief executive.

"It is standing and they have a

caretaker who cuts the grass," said Albert Turner Jr., a county commissioner whose father Albert Turner led civil rights activities in the region and advised King.

Cars and tour buses occasionally stop by, longtime neighbor William Carter said, but there's no sign or historic marker to tell the property's story. He still misses Coretta King's parents, Obie and Bernice M. Scott, who died in 1998 and 1996, respectively.

"Him and his wife were the nicest people I ever met in my life," said Carter.

Coretta Scott, a Marion native, and King, who grew up in Atlanta, met in Boston in the early 1950s while he was attending Boston University and she was studying opera at the New England Conservatory of Music.

"She talked about things other than music. I never will forget, the first discussion we had was about the question of racial and economic injustice and the question of peace," King wrote in his autobiography.

The two wed in the front yard of the wood-frame home on June 18, 1953, with King's father performing the ceremony; a wedding photo showed him in a white jacket, her in a gown. Their marriage license is still at the county courthouse in Marion, logged in a book marked "COLORED" in keeping with the Jim Crow law at the time that required segregating everything by race, even marriage records.

Scott's parents remained at the white house with a broad front porch while the young couple lived in Boston and then Montgomery before settling in Atlanta. Obie Scott preached at the nearby Mt. Tabor A.M.E. Zion Church and operated a country store right beside the home; a cash register, scales and cigar boxes are among the items still visible through a broken front window.

It's not that the Kings are forgotten in Perry County. The home is located on Coretta Scott King Memorial Highway, and a bust of Coretta King erected following her death in 2006 stands outside the Mt. Tabor church.

But some believe more should be done. Perry County Probate Judge Eldora B. Anderson, who lives in suburban Birmingham, said she took her grandchildren to see the house and church.

"They had so many questions," she said.

Leggs, the preservationist, said in an email interview that the Scott home "is a cultural asset important to our nation's 20th century history."

"This home stands as the physical evidence and existence of a great American and a great family legacy," he said.

Reeves is a member of AP's Race and Ethnicity team.



Coretta Scott King



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LONGTIME CHEF AT BEEF & BOARDS RETIRES



By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Odell Ward didn't know anything about Beef & Boards when he was looking for a job 38 years ago. He was coming out of the Air Force and landed a couple of temp jobs he didn't enjoy before finding the dinner theater company on the northwest side of Indianapolis.

Nearly four decades later, Ward retired as executive chef.

"It was one of the best and most rewarding things that has happened to me," he said. "The theater always felt like family to me, and it always will."

Ward spent more than 30 years of his time at the company as executive chef, which left him responsible for cooking for hundreds of guests at each show. His red cabbage and stroganoff were among his favorite dishes and seemed to be popular with audiences.

Doug Stark, who's owned Beef & Boards since 1980, said Ward was always ready with a big smile and a big hug.

"He cared for the theater and its customers," Stark said. "He's a problem-solver and a friend."

Ward said he stayed for so long because he fell in love with the operation and enjoyed the people.

Now that he's retired, Ward said he's looking forward to spending more time fishing, one of his favorite things to do.

"And just enjoy the little things at a nice and relaxed pace," he said.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

Odell Ward retired after nearly 40 years at Beef & Boards, most of which was as executive chef. (Photo provided by Beef & Boards)



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RHODES SCHOLAR FOUND PASSION FOR HEALTH AND BELIEF IN SELF

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

MacKenzie Isaac recently Googled herself trying to find the two times she was featured in Recorder articles, first when she was 10 and again when she was 16.

She saw a picture of herself — with braces and a pearl necklace — and couldn't help but think what she might tell that younger version of herself.

"I was like, 'If only you knew that you'd be in this position now,'" she said.

Isaac is unique, and it's not just because she's willing to admit to Googling herself. The Cathedral High School and University of Notre Dame alumna is a 2022 Rhodes Scholar, one of the most esteemed and competitive academic honors in the world.

Isaac will use the award to pursue a doctorate degree in population health at the University of Oxford. She'll leave in September.

"I don't think that it will truly sink in until someone puts me on a plane there and there's no getting off of it," she said. "I'm still in so much shock."

For now, Isaac is focused on completing her master's degree as an online student at Columbia University in the Health Education program. She would eventually like to get back to Indianapolis and go into academia to do public health research.

Isaac was always a gifted student. She was valedictorian twice, first at the now-closed Jewel Christian Academy and then at Cathedral, which is why she was in the Recorder twice. But even then, it took some convincing to apply for the Rhodes Scholarship.

A Notre Dame professor asked her at the beginning of her senior year if she had thought about applying.

"Those scholarships aren't for people like me," Isaac said, prompting a self-interrogation into why she thought that.

Isaac realized Black women didn't fit her idea of who a Rhodes Scholar is. It was imposter syndrome holding her back, the thought that surely there were other people more deserving.

Isaac applied once and was named a finalist but



MacKenzie Isaac is a graduate student at Columbia University and recently won a Rhodes Scholarship. She will study at Oxford University starting in the fall. (Photo provided by MacKenzie Isaac)

didn't get selected. She applied a second time and got in.

Aside from imposter syndrome, a grueling application process is enough to make people question if they're cut out to be a Rhodes Scholar.

First, you need an institutional endorsement (it

was Notre Dame, in Isaac's case). Isaac then spent the summer filling out an application that included five to eight letters of recommendation. Next was a virtual interview on a Saturday afternoon. The students went into smaller breakout rooms, and Isaac was the last in her group to interview. Finally, students wait while the panel deliberates, and there's no telling how long that might take.

The panel came back and announced the two winners in alphabetical order by last name. The first person announced had a last name that started with "I," and Isaac quickly rushed through the alphabet to make sure her name was still in play.

She was the second name announced.

The final step was an email that came in the middle of the night telling her everything she needed to do to prepare for Oxford.

"It was like one jolt at a time," Isaac said.

Isaac always felt a tug to go into health care because it seemed like a good way to merge her inquisitive way of thinking with a passion for interacting with people. There was also an influence from growing up in a Christian home.

"The concept of healing has always resonated with me," she said.

Isaac was set on taking a pre-med path, but learning about the Flint water crisis during her senior year in high school changed that. There was a water drive at Cathedral, which she participated in, but it also made her realize water bottles were a temporary solution that wouldn't fix the underlying issues.

She didn't know all of the options at the time, but Isaac understood it's what she wanted to focus on.

Isaac was already well on her way, Rhodes Scholarship or not, but now there's an extra piece to help her reach that goal.

"It's a weight that I take very seriously, that I bear with humility," she said.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

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JAMES HINTON WAS INDIANA'S FIRST BLACK LEGISLATOR

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Today, it isn't uncommon to see Black lawmakers in Indiana. The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, composed of state representatives and senators, advocates for the needs of Black Hoosiers. Vop Osili is president of the city-county council, and Rep. Andre Carson is one of Indiana's most prominent political figures.

In 1880, James Hinton became the first African American legislator in Indiana, paving the way for other Black lawmakers.

Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1834, Hinton's family moved to Terre Haute in 1848. There, Hinton enrolled in a private school and worked as a barber. After graduating from a Quaker school

in Vigo County at 16, he enrolled at the Greenville Institute in Greenville, Ohio.

At the start of the Civil War, Hinton moved to Massachusetts to recruit for the 54th and 55th United States Colored Troops. By the time he returned to Indiana in 1863, he was commissioned to second lieutenant and served in the 28th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops and was stationed at Camp Fremont in Indianapolis.

After the war, Hinton became involved in the Masonic lodge and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, where he gained popularity for his public speaking skills. This notoriety earned him a chance to speak at various campaign rallies for Republican candidates who were seeking the Black vote. At the 1872 Republican

National Convention, he was elected as a delegate-at-large. His political career furthered in 1873 when he was appointed as trustee of Indiana's Wabash and Erie Canal Fund, making him the first African American to hold an Indiana state office. He remained in this position until 1877.

In 1880, Hinton was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives, representing Marion County. Though he only served one term, Hinton continued his political pursuits and remained supportive of the Republican party. Hinton died in 1892 after delivering a campaign speech in Brazil, Indiana.

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



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ENGAGING SOLUTIONS CONTINUES EVOLVING

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

After more than 15 years in business, management consulting firm Engaging Solutions has adopted a new corporate structure and is turning its focus to quality of life issues, including health equity.

Kelli Lester, chief strategist, referenced cities and states that have recently declared racism a public health crisis and said that acts as an “umbrella” over everything the company does.

“It brought together all that’s good about Engaging Solutions into a focused impact,” Lester said.

The company is putting together a medical team, including an African American doctor from South Carolina who’s an expert in improving health outcomes. Leaders are also working with health workers, who will help people overcome social determinants of health — non-medical factors that influence health outcomes — and better understand the gaps in care.

The company’s goal is to become a

top provider in health outreach, data analytics and other similar areas by 2024.

Aside from the more technical aspects of health equity, the company has taken simpler, practical steps to mark a focus on quality of life. In January the team delivered 120 pizzas to health care workers at Eskenazi Health, and a week before that they did the same for Franciscan Health.

In addition to the renewed focus externally, Engaging Solutions underwent some changes internally. The firm, which opened in 2005, reorganized to a C-suite model, which refers to the management structure of a business where C stands for chief — think CEO, CFO, etc. Leaders say the model will allow for better collaboration, more specialized expertise and the ability to more easily expand.

The plan to restructure the business started about four years ago, CEO Tammy Robinson said, as a way to ease through retirements and broaden the scope of responsibility for administrative and service functions.

Other C-suite staff are Hope Tribble, chief administrative officer; Teresa Jeter,

Engaging Solutions

Executive Leadership Team



Kelli Lester
Chief Strategy Officer



Hope Tribble
Chief Administrative Officer



Tammy Butler Robinson
Chief Executive Officer



Teresa Jeter
Chief Operations Officer



Warren Culpepper
Chief Technology Officer

chief operations officer; and Warren Culpepper, chief technology officer.

Co-founders Debbie Wilson, Venita Moore and managing principal Charles Johnson transitioned to members of the board of advisors.

“We have always been a company that works with the end in mind,” Robinson said.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.

Engaging Solutions recently transitioned to a C-suite corporate model, which leaders say the model will allow for better collaboration, more specialized expertise and the ability to more easily expand. (Screenshot)



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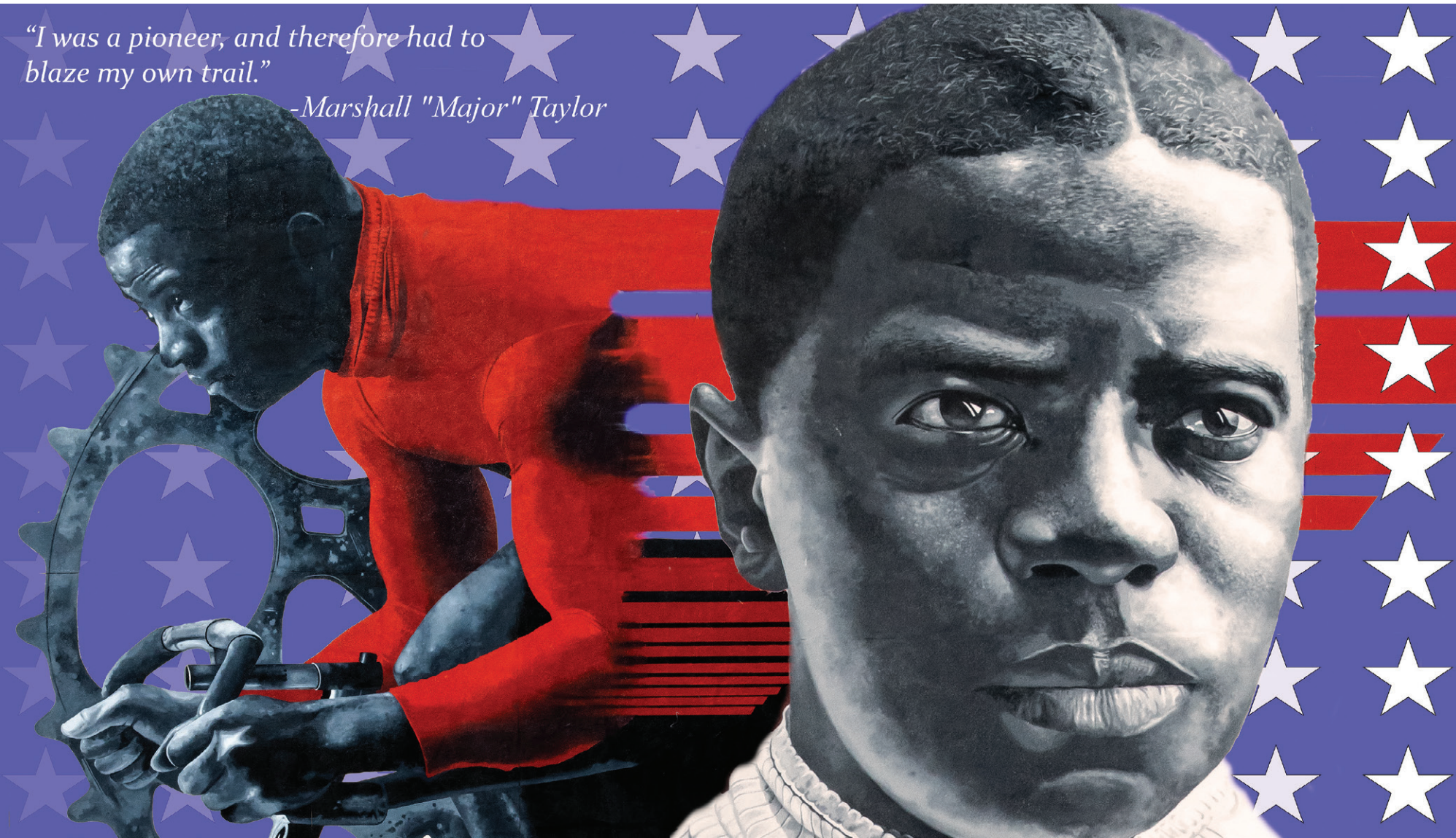
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Indianapolis Airport Authority

THE QUEST TO GET MONTFORD POINT MARINES HONOR THEY DESERVE



By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Mallorie Berger was browsing the internet one night about four months ago when she came across an article about the Montford Point Marines, who were among the first African American men to integrate the Marine Corps in the 1940s.

Berger knew her grandfather, Maurice L. Burns Sr., served in the military, but the family didn't talk about it much. Berger, the self-designated family historian, kept all of the photos and papers from her mother and grandmother after they died and had a feeling her grandfather was connected to the Montford Point Marines.

She sent an email at 1 a.m. to the national secretary of the National Montford Point Marine Association and started compiling all of the documents she could find from her grandfather. Among them were letters, including one to Veteran's Affairs to get medical coverage for back problems, and Berger had his discharge certificate.

The association called her the next morning.

Finding out her grandfather was a Montford Point Marine was important for Berger because it filled in a significant piece of family history, but it also meant she would be able to get Burns, who died in 1996, the recognition he deserved: a Congressional Gold Medal.

Burns kept a photograph of the 33 men he trained with at Montford Point, with names. Berger numbered them in hopes of finding their descendants. 1. Henry Washington (Detroit) 2. Bernard C. Gill (Beaumont, Texas) 3. Maurice L. Burns, Sr. (Talladega/Birmingham, Alabama) 4. Grady Russell (West Palm Beach, Florida) 5. Daniel Rucker (Detroit) 6. Moses Hargray (St. Petersburg, Florida) 7. Jessie James Burton (Waldo, Arkansas) 8. Dillie Pierce (Memphis, Tennessee) 9. Paul Montgomery (Dayton, Ohio) 10. Irvin Sims (College Park, Georgia) 11. Maurice Mack Mallard (Oakland, California) 12. James Norris (Detroit) 13. Herman Douthard (Gadsden, Alabama) 14. Earl Wilson (Washington, D.C.) 15. James Thomas (Memphis, Tennessee) 16. Charles Cargile Hall (Madison, Georgia) 17. Joe Lee Blanks (Pine Bluff, Arkansas) 18. John W. Cook (Philadelphia) 19. Lucious H. Douglas (Fort Wayne, Indiana) 20. Dennis Gibbs (Hickory, North Carolina) 21. Marion Garrett Jr. (Dayton, Ohio) 22. Edward S. Chapman (Aliquippa, Pennsylvania) 23. Lester Davis (Little Rock, Arkansas) 24. Archie Jackson (Columbus, Georgia) 25. Joe Alexander (Raiford, Florida) 26. R.C. Penn (Anniston, Alabama) 27. Thomas C. Williams (Columbus, Georgia) 28. James C. Henry (Bronx, New York) 29. Aaron Watson (Atlanta) 30. Harvey R. Elderkin (Providence, Rhode Island) 31. Clarence Wesley Daniels (Wichita, Kansas) 32. Joseph Montgomery (Atlanta) 33. George McIvory (Jacksonville/Miami, Florida) 34. James C. Pease (Durham, North Carolina). (Photos provided by Mallorie Berger)

In 2011, President Barack Obama signed a law to award all Montford Point Marines with the Congressional Gold Medal for their sacrifice and service during World War II.

The problem is poor recordkeeping means only about 2,000 Marines have received the honor, even though there were approximately 20,000 men who served at Montford Point. It is believed there are fewer than 300 still alive.

Berger has made it her mission to track down as many families as possible who may have had someone serve at Montford Point Camp. She got a bit of a head start because her grandfather kept the coveted "Blue Book" — basically a military yearbook. There were photos and 33 names of other Marines, who signed the book like a typical school yearbook.

Learning the history of her grandfather and the Montford Point Marines has been bittersweet, Berger said, because she wishes her mother, grandmother and other family members were alive to appreciate it. And then there's Burns.

"My grandfather was a lover of history," Berger said. "I think he would be blown away to know he is a part of history, the significance of what he did."

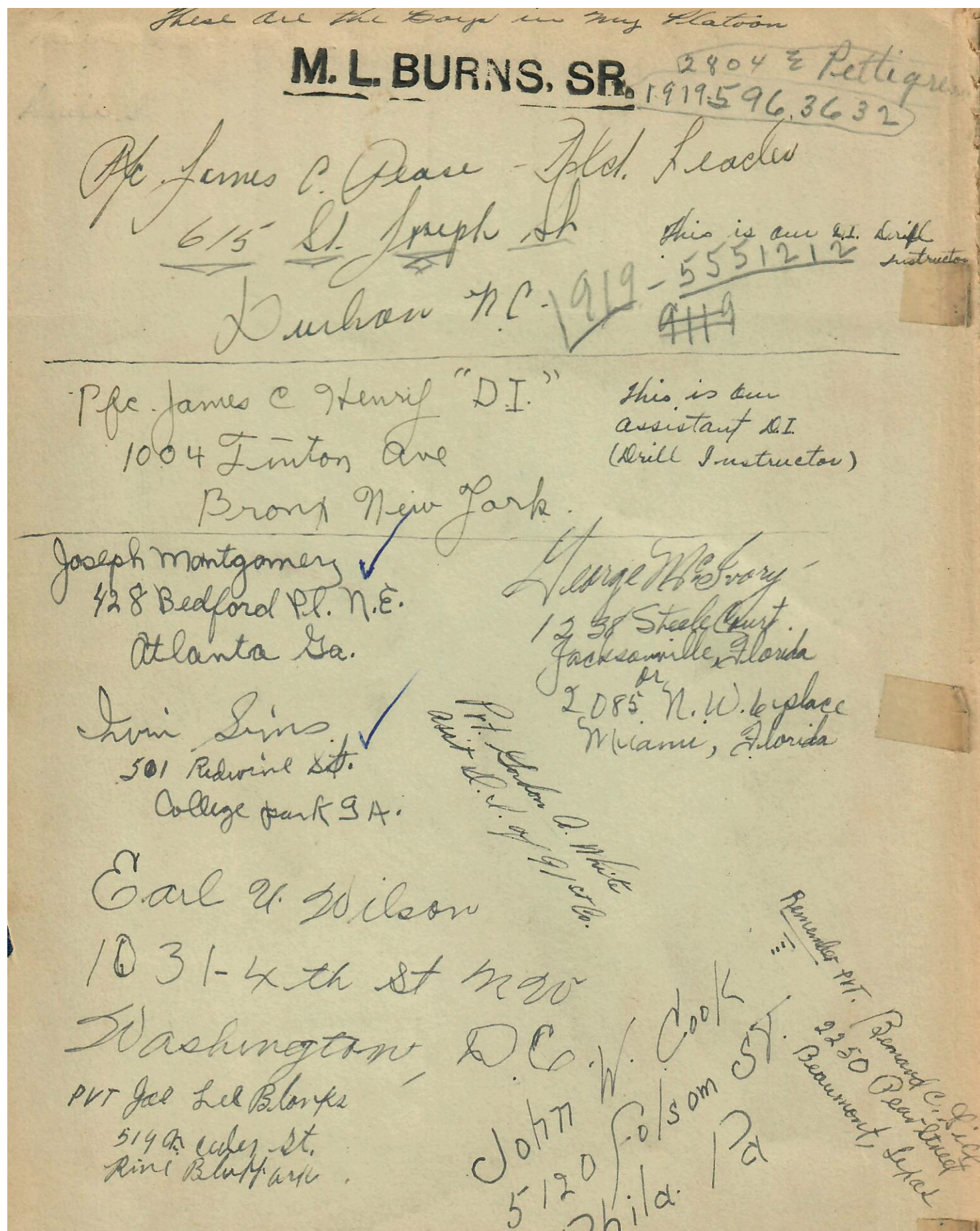
One of the people Berger brought along on her journey is Reginald Moore, a high school classmate whose grandfather was also a Montford Point Marine.


Moore learned about his grandfather's history 25 years ago after his father died. The funeral was in Texas, and Moore, an active-duty Marine at the time, wore his uniform to honor his father. That's where Moore's grandfather, Morris Ruffin, told him he was also in the Marines.

Fifteen years later, Moore was invited to an event sponsored by Montford Point Marines and he saw a photo on the wall that had his grandfather in it.

Still, Moore didn't think much of it until he learned about the Congressional Gold Medals, and he learned his grandfather, who died in 2004, hadn't

Mallorie Berger's grandfather kept his "Blue Book" — essentially a military yearbook — which other Marines signed. It has helped her begin to track down family members of others who served at Montford Point.





DID YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY SERVE AT MONTFORD POINT?

Contact Joe Geeter, public relations specialist for the National Montford Point Marine Association, at publicrelations@montfordpointMarines.org. The organization's website is montfordpointmarines.org.

Maurice L. Burns Sr.

received his.

Burns and Ruffin were posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal — the highest civilian award in the U.S. — at a ceremony Feb. 19 in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

“Both men served with honor and distinction,” Moore said, “and neither one of them sought anything more than simple respect.”

WHO WERE THE MONTFORD POINT MARINES?

Most people have at least heard of the Tuskegee Airmen or Buffalo Soldiers, even if they don't fully understand their significance. But not so with the Montford Point Marines.

Montford Point Camp was established in 1942 with the first African Americans to serve as Marines. The facility was located on a small peninsula in North Carolina.

Not only did the Marines go through the rigors of training, but they were also dealing with a segregated military in the South of the 1940s.

Moore can relate to his grandfather as a Marine, but he knows their experiences weren't exactly the same.

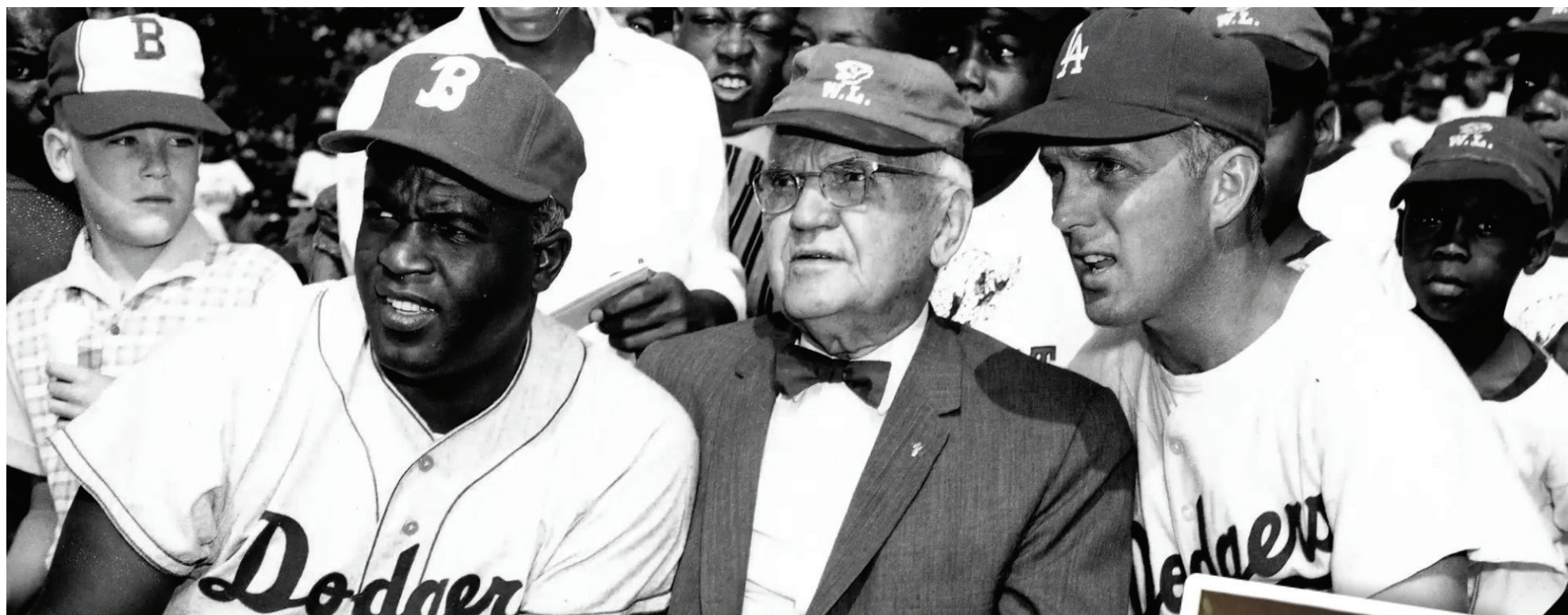
“I know that he went through a lot just to earn the title,” he said.

Berger learned through her grandfather's letters that the staff at Montford Point apparently didn't believe he had back issues related to being a brick mason. The VA denied his request for coverage, and he wrote to one of the men he served under about his treatment, including people jumping on his back.

That's why, for Berger, part of her motivation in finding the descendants of Montford Point Marines is also about making sure their legacy survives.

“I want to not only recognize Maurice Burns Sr.,” she said, “but I want people to know about Montford Point.”

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



"The right of every American to first-class citizenship is the most important issue of our time."

- Jackie Robinson

Following Jackie's lead, Anderson, Indiana native Carl Erskine became a teammate on and off the playing field, as well as one of Jackie's staunchest allies.

Special Olympics Indiana is partnering with Ted Green Films to bring important lessons from this era to a school near you this fall. You can see a preview of the materials and learn how you can be involved at the link below.

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DISCOVERING A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS

By STAFF

Niko Harbosky shares his journey from real estate broker to his current position as a commercial banking analyst at JPMorgan Chase. He is chair of Business Organization for Leadership Development (BOLD).

Indianapolis Recorder: Explain your journey to your current position at JPMorgan Chase.

Niko Harbosky: After years as a real estate broker, I discovered a genuine passion for helping others while gaining a deeper appreciation for owning a deal from beginning to end.

After joining the firm in March of 2018, I was excited to learn more about our firm's existing footprint within Indianapolis and still recall my first experience with Black Organization for Leadership Development (BOLD).

The organization put together a speaking event, "Celebrating Black Leaders." The keynote speaker reaffirmed the importance of the occasion and openly reflected on his career and journey. It was an impactful moment for me at the onset of my career with JPMorgan Chase.

Soon thereafter, I set a goal to join the firm's Middle Market team, while obtaining my MBA. In May 2020, I submitted my Kelley Evening MBA application. The acceptance to the program was dampened as I and the rest of the world watched the unruly reality my Black brothers and sisters lived through, most notably the death of George Floyd. For this reason, and so many others, I'm proud to work for a firm that is dedicated to leading with diversity, equity and inclusion.

I'm proud to say I currently serve the Middle Market group in Indianapolis, bringing JPMorgan Chase's global capabilities to local business communities.

IR: What impact does a higher level of diversity in banking benefit the greater community?

Harbosky: Throughout my life, I have been a part of many charitable organizations that seek to empower the lives of urban minorities, particularly the Black community. I am fortunate to work for a global firm that demonstrates a continued belief in diversity for its people and culture and have immersed myself in the many opportunities offered through the firm. Each experience has given me a host of unique perspectives and observations I continue to use both personally and professionally.

IR: Careers in banking/finance often aren't as well known in the Black community as other careers. How do you increase visibility and help young people realize opportunities in banking?

Harbosky: A few years ago, our firm launched Advancing Black Pathways (ABP). This initiative focuses on four key areas where there are racial and economic disparities that create barriers to long-term financial success: careers and skill building, business growth and entrepreneurship, financial health and wealth creation, and community development.

I proudly served as a mentor during the 2021 ABP Fellowship Program and had the opportunity to coach five exceptional young men.



Niko Harbosky

The ABP Fellowship Program is a six-week paid, full-time fellowship held during the summer months in select JPMorgan Chase & Co. offices for Black undergraduate sophomores to build early professional development skills and positively impact the future of people's lives, our firm and our industry.

IR: How has the APB program helped the participants grow professionally and personally?

Harbosky: This opportunity exposes students to a hands-on experience, mentorship and project-based curriculum, designed to help build a pathway to future opportunities. The ABP Fellowship Program is committed to providing early professional development to students from communities underrepresented in the financial industry.

IR: Are there organizations in your field to support Black people once they embark on a career in banking/finance?

Harbosky: The JPMorgan Chase's Commercial Bank Black Leadership Forum was created to support the advancement, recruitment and engagement of all Black employees across Commercial Banking.

The goal of the Asset Wealth Management's Black Leadership Forum is to engage and empower Asset & Wealth Management professionals to attract Black talent, develop the skill set of existing Black talent and to retain and advance high-performing Black talent.

ABP was launched in 2019 as a part of JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s ongoing global efforts to strengthen the economic foundation of Black communities and close the racial wealth gap brought on by historic systemic racism and disparities. Through ABP, the firm is hiring Black tal-

ent, developing Black leaders, investing in Black businesses, and improving the financial health of Black communities around the world.

The firmwide Black Executive Forum is a global consortium of senior leaders who self-ID as Black. This group serves as ambassadors and thought leaders for firmwide initiatives.

IR: How has BOLD helped you in your role?

Harbosky: As I continue in my professional career, I recognize that many of my successes were a result of committing to something larger than myself. BOLD gave me an opportunity to exercise my leadership capabilities. Additionally, BOLD offers amazing professional opportunities as internal and external partnerships across all lines of business come together in the state of Indiana for the greater purpose of advancing Black communities and leaders. As co-chair, I'm honored to help steer the regional business plan which focuses on professional development, acquiring and retaining diverse talent, promoting diversity and maintaining financial and physical wellness.

IR: How has the pandemic impacted your job?

Harbosky: Looking back, I see many positive outcomes as a result of how my life has changed over the past two years. Working in a virtual environment afforded me some added time in my schedule which allowed me to successfully study for and pursue my MBA. I also believe the pandemic gave me more of a reason to be intentional with my relationships both professionally and personally, which positioned me well to proudly serve my community in a purposeful way.



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HOW 2 SISTERS HELPED CHANGE THE CULTURE AT PURDUE UNIVERSITY



Frieda Parker



Winifred Parker

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

Like other members of his family, Ralph Jefferson III heard the soft rumblings of Purdue University possibly honoring his late mother and aunt, who in the 1940s became the faces of a campaign to integrate student housing.

Johnson wasn't naive, though. He understood it usually takes big money to do something special, and the family wouldn't be able to pull that off. He thought they might get a plaque or something like that.

Instead, in 2021, the university honored the sisters' legacy by renaming the Griffin Residence Hall buildings as Frieda Parker Hall and Winifred Parker Hall. They were the first buildings on campus to be named after Black alumnae.

Johnson described his mother, Frieda Parker Jefferson, as a reserved person who didn't like making a big deal out of anything.

Winifred Neisser, the daughter of Winifred Parker White, described her mother in the same way.

It's not a surprise the sisters were similar in that way. They were inseparable throughout their lives; the family calculated they spent fewer than five

years living more than about three miles from each other.

The Parker sisters also had to bond through an integration effort that made it all the way to the governor. Their father, Frederick, started a letter-writing campaign after Purdue initially denied the girls' applications to live in university housing, forcing them instead to a boarding house in Lafayette.

Indiana's governor, Ralph Gates, was one recipient of Frederick's letters, and he agreed to take up the family's cause.

Purdue admitted the sisters into the Bunker Hill residence halls, putting them among the dorm's first Black residents.

The formal recommendation to name the buildings after the Parker sisters came from Renee Thomas, who's been at the university for more than 30 years and is currently director of the Black Cultural Center.

"How fitting it would be to name a residence hall in their honor," Thomas said.

The Parker Hall buildings are adjacent to the Black Cultural Center and close to the residence halls where the sisters lived as students.

Integrating housing at a major university seems like a good topic of conversation at the dinner table, but



The outside of Frieda Parker Residence Hall.
(Photo provided by Purdue University)



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Winifred and Frieda Parker Residence Halls.
(Purdue University photo/John Underwood)

Neisser said her mother and aunt never talked about it as some groundbreaking moment in history.

“It was just a family story,” she said. “They didn’t make a big deal out of it.”

Neisser said integration stories tend to focus on what it meant for white people at the time, especially in a situation like what the sisters faced, where many white students in the dorm probably never had any meaningful, positive interactions with Black people. But it was the same way for White and Jefferson, who grew up in a segregated Indianapolis neighborhood and went to the segregated Crispus Attucks High School.

From what White did talk about, Neisser remembers her mother thinking white students just weren’t interested in her. In retrospect, White would later say there were probably students who wanted a closer relationship, but she didn’t recognize it at the time.

Neither of the sisters lived to see the dedication. White died in 2003, and Jefferson died in 2020, but it’s not difficult to imagine the ceremony would have meant more to them because of the educational attainment it marked rather than anything such an honor said about them individually.

Their father came from a poor family but made it to Amherst College, where he played football and ran track. He wanted that experience for his daughters and everyone else in his family, Neisser said, and the tribute at Purdue can be seen as an extension of that legacy.

But it was also about more than simply education. The Parker sisters helped change the culture at a major institution.

“They had a strong sense of what was right and wrong,” Neisser said, “and they really did believe in standing up for yourself.”

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



The outside of Winifred Parker Residence Hall. (Photo provided by Purdue University)



Portraits of Frieda (left) and Winifred Parker adorn the inside of one of the residence halls named in their honor. (Purdue University photo/John Underwood)



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FOR SCORES OF YEARS, NEWSPAPERS PRINTED HATE, LEADING TO RACIST TERROR LYNCHINGS AND MASSACRES OF BLACK AMERICANS

By DeNEEN L. BROWN

The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism

“FRIED OVER SLOW FIRE: Negro Commits the Unspeakable Crime and Is Put to Death With Horrible Torture; MOB GLOATS OVER FIENDISH BARBARITY”

- Herald Democrat, Sherman, Texas, May 23, 1902

“LYNCHING CAUSED BY BRUTAL MURDER”

- The Times and Democrat, Orangeburg, S.C., July 14, 1914

“NEGRO UNDER SENTENCE TO HANG LYNCHED AT TALLAHASSEE”

- The Pensacola Journal, Pensacola, Fla., June 8, 1909

“BLOODY WORK OF MOB”

-The Choctaw Plaindealer, Ackerman, Miss., Aug. 12, 1910

“Gov. Brough Fired Upon by Negroes at Elaine; NEGROES HAD PLOT TO RISE AGAINST WHITES, CHARGED”

- Arkansas Democrat, Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 2, 1919

“THE ASSAULT ON WOMAN AVENGED — DAVIS DRAGGED FROM JAIL AND LYNCHED — MOB RIDDLED NEGRO RAVISHER WITH BULLETS; HUNG TO TREE ON BRICKYARD HILL AT EARLY HOUR THIS MORNING; BRUTE CONFESSED BEFORE THE CROWD — SAID HE INTENDED TO MURDER HER AS WELL”

- Evening Capital, Annapolis, Md., Dec. 21, 1906

“3,000 WILL BURN NEGRO”

- The New Orleans States, New Orleans, La., June 26, 1919

“Nab Negro for Attacking Girl In an Elevator”

- The Tulsa Tribune, Tulsa, Okla., May 31, 1921

“JOHN HARTFIELD WILL BE LYNCHED BY ELLISVILLE MOB AT 5 O’CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON”

- Jackson Daily News, Jackson, Miss., June 26, 1919

“FIXED FOR A BARBECUE; Preparations to Roast Jim Buchanan, Negro Murderer. Had the Mob Secured Him at Nacogdoches This was to Have Been the Programme”

- The Southern Mercury, Dallas, Texas, Oct. 16, 1902



For decades, hundreds of white-owned newspapers across the country incited the racist terror lynchings and massacres of thousands of Black Americans. In their headlines, these newspapers often promoted the brutality of white lynch mobs and chronicled the gruesome details of the lynchings. Many white reporters stood on the sidelines of Jim Crow lynchings as Black men, women, teenagers and children were hanged from trees and burned alive. White mobs often posed on courthouse lawns, grinning for photos that ran on front pages of mainstream newspapers.

These racist terror lynchings — defined as extrajudicial killings carried out by lawless mobs intending to terrorize Black communities — evoked horror as victims were often castrated, dismembered, tortured and riddled with bullets before being hanged from trees, light poles and bridges.

Lynchings took different forms. Some Black people were bombed, as four little girls were in a church in Birmingham, Alabama. Black men were whipped by mobs to silence them. Emmett Till

was kidnapped, tortured, beaten and thrown into the Tallahatchie River with a cotton-gin fan tied around his neck with barbed wire.

“Printing Hate,” a yearlong investigation by students working with the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland, examines the scope, depth and breadth of newspaper coverage of hundreds of those public-spectacle lynchings and massacres.

The investigation was inspired by DeNeen L. Brown’s reporting on the Red Summer of 1919 and the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, which was sparked by the sensational coverage of The Tulsa Tribune, specifically a May 31, 1921, front-page story: “Nab Negro for Attacking Girl In an Elevator.” The Tulsa Race Massacre was one of the deadliest acts of racist violence against Black people in U.S. history.

This project investigates the cumulative effect of how newspaper headlines and editorials incited racist terror and falsely accused Black people of crimes. The series uncovers the widespread

practice of publishing headlines that accelerated lynchings and massacres. That included newspapers announcing “Negro uprisings,” publishing uncorroborated stories of Black men accused of “assaulting” white women, and printing false allegations of arson and vagrancy — all in an attempt to justify racist terror inflicted on Black people.

Many of the newspapers examined in this project ran racist headlines, calling Black people “brutes,” “fiends” and “bad Negroes.” Newspapers across the South greeted readers with “Hambone’s Meditations,” a racist caricature created by The Commercial Appeal in Memphis, Tennessee. (The Commercial Appeal was owned by Scripps-Howard from 1936 to 2015, when the company spun off its newspapers. The Scripps Howard Foundation supports the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland.)

Some of the newspapers advertised upcoming lynchings, often printing the time, date and place where mobs would gather. Some white reporters watched, took notes and wrote riveting accounts

of the barbarity of mobs, documenting the horror of the wounds inflicted, with blow-by-blow descriptions of the attacks, as though they were writing about a sporting event. But those reporters, as skilled as they were as writers, often failed to practice good journalism, by undertaking the basic job of reporters — pursue and tell the truth. Many of those reporters failed to identify white people in the mob. They also failed to hold government officials accountable by asking hard questions of the sheriffs, judges and other local law enforcement officials who stepped aside while white mobs attacked Black people.

This series found that the collective impact of those accounts was devastating. Triggered by front-page headlines, Black people were often dragged from their homes, ridiculed, tormented and whipped with straps so sharp their flesh was shredded.

Sparked by reports, a white mob of more than 2,000 people in Salisbury, Maryland, pulled 23-year-old Matthew Williams from the “Negro ward” of the hospital on Dec. 4, 1931, threw him out

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the window, stabbed him with an ice pick, and dragged him to the courthouse lawn. Before dousing him with gasoline, they cut off his fingers and toes, then drove to the Black side of town, where they tossed his body parts onto porches of Black people, while shouting for them to make “N— sandwiches.”

The project reveals how the scope of the news of the day for some Americans was often ghastly, shaping the American landscape and psyche. The front pages included pictures of people being killed in the most horrible ways. The lynchings were covered as an everyday occurrence, often reported side by side with who graduated from college that day and stock prices. A reader could open the newspaper in the morning and casually scan the headlines reporting baseball scores, finalists in beauty contests, reports on tariff negotiations and a news story advocating lynchings.

The fact that lynchings took place is generally known, and the fact that some newspapers incited lynchings is generally known. But the Howard Center’s reporting shows how widespread this incendiary coverage was. It was not a question of this coverage just happen-

ing in places like Wilmington, North Carolina; Montgomery, Alabama; or Atlanta, but it happened in small towns across America.

Not all white-owned newspapers were guilty, and there were degrees of guilt. In some instances, editors looked the other way. In other instances, they not only covered the fire; they lit the fuse.

“Printing Hate” examines white-owned newspaper coverage of lynchings and massacres from the end of the Civil War in 1865 to the passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965. During those 100 years, thousands of Black people were murdered in massacres and lynchings. In that same period, nearly 5,000 racial terror lynchings of Black people occurred, according to a Howard Center analysis of the Beck-Tolnay inventory of Southern Lynch Victims and the Seguin-Rigby National Data Set of Lynchings in the United States.

Lynchings were often public-spectacle executions “carried out by lawless mobs, though police officers did participate, under the pretext of justice,” according to the NAACP, which in 1919 published “Thirty Years of Lynching in the United States, 1889-1919,” to promote awareness

of the scope of lynching.

A MULTIFACETED INVESTIGATION

The series of stories in “Printing Hate” resulted from a multifaceted investigation by 58 student journalists from the University of Maryland, the University of Arkansas and five historically Black colleges and universities: Hampton University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University and North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University.

The students spent months examining hundreds of newspapers to detail the complicity of many white newspaper owners, publishers and journalists who used headlines, articles and editorials to incite racist mob violence and terror in the form of lynchings, massacres and pogroms. In the course of this investigation, student journalists examined hundreds of headlines and news reports that were collected in an original database designed by the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism.

“We found lots of examples of sensationalized coverage and trumped-up charges,” said Sean Mussenden, data editor at the Howard Center for Inves-

tigative Journalism, who worked with student journalists who built a database to allow many papers to examine their past lynching coverage. “As someone who has worked in the industry for a long time, I understood newspapers to be imperfect institutions that nonetheless served as guardians of truth who righted wrongs and exposed corrupt officials. I was shocked by the role so many papers played in promoting a culture of racial terror.”

The students were not the first to uncover the white newspaper coverage, which was often countered by the Black press. However, they were able to investigate as reporters of a new generation bringing a 21st-century perspective to the project.

This investigation of newspaper coverage of lynchings comes at a time of “racial reckoning” in newsrooms. The stories dive into the country’s racist history, at a time when states are passing laws to prevent that truth from being told, under the guise of banning the teaching of critical race theory — designed to be taught in law schools. The series begins at a time when several major newspapers have issued statements, acknowledging and apologizing for racist coverage. “Printing Hate” attempts to add to this discourse by providing a more comprehensive review of that racist historical newspaper coverage that incited the deaths of thousands of Black people.

Rollout

“Printing Hate” will roll out over the next three months, publishing to the University of Maryland’s Capital News Service and Howard Center website. It will be published by Word In Black, a “groundbreaking collaboration of the nation’s leading Black news publishers,” and appear on the National Association of Black Journalists’ website.

Over the course of these months, the project seeks to tell the story of the Black Americans who were betrayed by American newspapers, whose job should have been to report the facts and circumstances fairly and accurately.

Newsrooms

“Printing Hate” contains interviews with current newspaper editors who have issued apologies and with those

who have not. The project examines how the U.S. government failed to enact anti-lynching legislation to prevent the murder of Black people.

Readers will find interviews with descendants of lynching victims, including an account of the lynching of William Henderson Foote, who was killed by a mob in Yazoo City, Mississippi, in 1883. He was the first Black federal officer to die in the line of duty, “defending the rule of law in protection of a citizen’s basic civil right,” the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives determined.

The series showcases compelling narratives of those impacted by newspaper accounts, including the 1908 case of Annie Walker, who begged “night riders” for mercy before she was killed, according to a report in the Public Ledger newspaper in Kentucky.

The project features a timeline, written by a visiting professional, which connects the dots between racial terror massacres and lynchings, and failed attempts by Congress to pass anti-lynching legislation.

“Printing Hate” includes a story ex-

plaining how white-owned newspapers conspired to destroy a political party in Danville, Virginia, coverage of the lynching of Sank Majors and the inhumanity of Waco, Texas, where massive public lynchings of Black men were nurtured by the city’s newspapers. The project includes a story about The Columbus Dispatch, which condoned the lynching of John Gibson, published under the headline, “NEGRO FIEND MEETS HIS FATE.”

Readers will discover a report from a student journalist who dove into history and emerged with a story about the managing editor of The Atlanta Constitution and publisher of The Atlanta Journal, who ran for governor on platforms championing the fallacy of white supremacy.

The Atlanta Journal wrote an editorial in 1906 in support of “the legal disenfranchisement of 223,000 male negroes of voting age in Georgia.” The Journal claimed to support the disenfranchisement of Black men because “we are the superior race and do not intend to be ruled by our semi barbaric inferiors.”

The “Printing Hate” package of stories sweeps west to the blood-soaked cotton

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fields of Elaine, Arkansas, where newspapers inaccurately reported in 1919 that Black people in Elaine were engaged in an “uprising” against white people. Those headlines were essentially dog-whistle calls to white people in Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and surrounding states to descend on Elaine and literally hunt and kill Black people.

In “Printing Hate,” students write how the press covered jazz great Billie Holiday when she sang about “Strange Fruit”; how lynching photos and postcards were used by the media to foment terror; and about the courage of many journalists in the Black press who — often despite threats to their lives — pursued the truth about lynchings. This includes fearless anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells-Barnett; Walter White, who investigated lynchings for the NAACP; Robert S. Abbott, founder of The Chicago Defender, whose masthead promised “We Print THE TRUTH No Matter Whom IT HURTS”; Simeon S. Booker Jr., the first Black reporter for The Washington Post, and an award-winning journalist who covered the Civil Rights Movement for Jet and Ebony magazines; Moses Newson, a reporter for the Tri-State Defender in Memphis and the Baltimore Afro-American, who covered the 1955 trial of the white men who lynched Emmett Till in Mississippi.

Roscoe Dunjee, the founder and publisher of The Black Dispatch newspaper in Oklahoma City and a fearless crusader for justice, wrote in a 1919 editorial that white editors across the country — including at The New York Times and The Washington Post — should cease printing inflammatory headlines and false reports about Black people, which Dunjee wrote incited racist violence. As evidence, he cited a July 1919 Washington Post headline that provided the precise time, date and location where white mobs would “mobilize” near the White House to continue attacks on Black people during the D.C. Massacre of 1919, which left as many as 39 people dead.

“As long as editors encourage lawlessness as cynically as the editor of The Washington Post, there can be no hope of averting mob violence anywhere,” Dunjee said.

C.R. Gibbs, a historian and author of

“Black, Copper, & Bright: The District of Columbia's Black Civil War Regiment,” said newspapers often amplified community attitudes about race and racism.

“They provided the oil to throw on the fire of racial intolerance,” Gibbs said. “They essentially abandoned the cardinal rule of the press to report fairly and accurately. When we look at the vitriol splashed across newspapers across the country, when it came to race, they should still be liable for some sort of justice. These headlines had the real effect of taking people's lives, of making people's situations that much worse time and time again. They were not fighters for truth and justice. They were propagators of violence, oppression and bloodshed.”

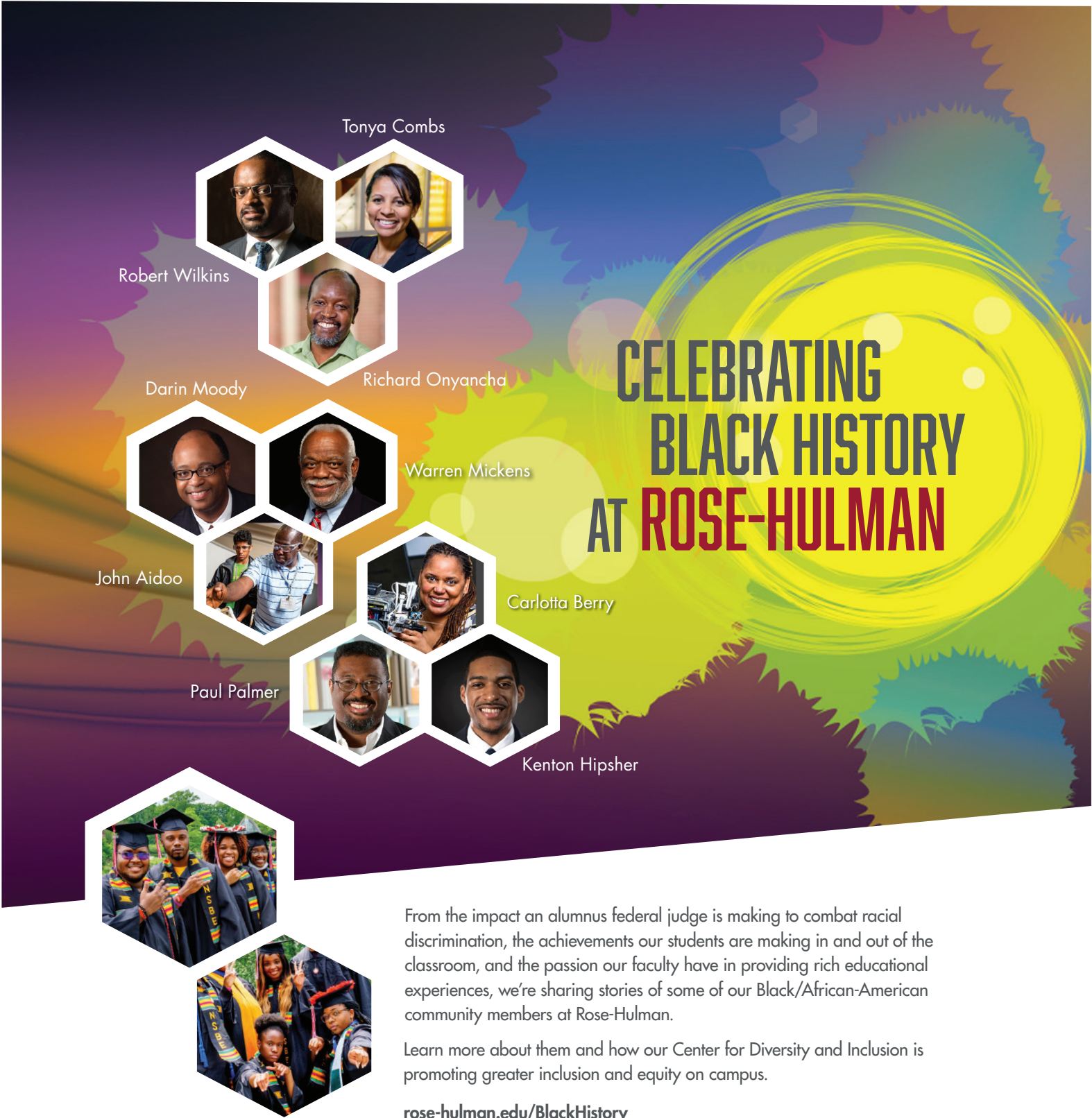
Victoria A. Ifatusin, a graduate student at the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism, said working on the project was a profound experience.

“We talk about social injustices today and how Black people were treated back then quite often,” Ifatusin said. “But I don't think that people, including me before this project, really understood how Black people were horrifically mistreated, to the point that their lives were taken just for their skin color. And newspapers, a medium of truth, aided in that mistreatment. As a young reporter, it deeply hurts to know that reporters of this time who were meant to seek truth, deliberately printed false information that harmed Black people. This only contributes to the passion I have for journalism in efforts to tell stories truthfully without creating harm to anyone.”

The stories, headlines, photos, editorials and cartoons detailed in the series may hit readers in the gut because of the effect of the resulting racist terror lynchings and massacres. The package of stories is unflinching. But it is required reading because the role some white-owned newspapers played in inciting racist terror lynchings and massacres against Black people in America is undeniable.

Vanessa Sanchez and Brittany Gaddy contributed to this report.

DeNeen L. Brown is an associate professor of journalism at the University of Maryland.



Tonya Combs

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SIGMA GAMMA RHO CELEBRATES BLACK EXCELLENCE, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

By BREANNA COOPER
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

In 1922 — when the Ku Klux Klan had a stranglehold on Indiana politics and culture — seven Black women at Butler University founded Sigma Gamma Rho, the only historically Black sorority established on a predominately white campus. Now, 100 years later, the sorority is still thriving at Butler and members still strive to achieve their goal of developing leadership skills and becoming civic leaders in the areas of education and health care.

The creation of Sigma Gamma Rho is in itself a victory over white supremacy. At the time of its creation, Butler University's policy only allowed 10 African American students to be enrolled each year. The sorority was created, in part, to protest discriminatory practices as well as the role of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana — with its leader D.C. Stephenson living right next to Butler's campus at the time.

Beyond protesting segregation, the original seven founders also wanted to emphasize sisterhood, service and scholarship. The organization has over 500 chapters worldwide, including in Bermuda, Germany and the Bahamas. Locally, the sorority has chapters at IU-PUI, Ball State University and Indiana State University.

Currently, there are over 160 members of Sigma Gamma Rho's graduate student members throughout Indianapolis. To celebrate its 100-year celebration, a national conference will be held in Indianapolis in June. The event will include workshops for sorority members, as well as community celebrations.

Tameca Joshua, advisor for the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority at Butler University, said the event will give Indianapolis sorors the chance to highlight all the work members of the



sorority do in Indianapolis.

"We're really proud of the fact that the sorority was founded at Butler, and we're proud that our sorority is able to celebrate in our city," Joshua said. "It's great exposure and ... want to show the people of Indianapolis that even though you may not see us all the time, we're out here doing the best we can to better our environment."

While the COVID-19 pandemic limited the activities sorority members were able to do in person the last three years, they were still able to host charity drives for food and other items for people

in need. In 2021, members collected items for Project Cradle Care, which is a collaboration between the sorority and March of Dimes. Project Cradle Care aims to help teen mothers financially and emotionally. The project also provides new mothers with classes and resources to guide them through their first year of motherhood.

Members of the sorority also do a lot with local children and teens. A partnership between the sorority and USA Swimming helps teach African Americans and other people of color about water safety, as African American

children are more likely to drown than children in any other demographic, according to USA Swimming Foundation. On the second Saturday of March, the sorority hosts a youth symposium with the goal of improving educational and behavioral outcomes for children. While the symposium has been held virtually since 2020, Joshua hopes it will be held in-person this year.

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

WHAT'S IN A NAME, INDY?

BRIGHTWOOD AIRPORT



The Brightwood Airport was located on Massachusetts Avenue, north of 21st Street. (The map was provided courtesy of the United States Geological Survey, 1948.)

By RICHARD MCDONOUGH

As you travel today on Interstate 70 through Brightwood, you may not realize you're on land that once served Indianapolis through a different mode of transportation. A FedEx facility and wholesale food establishments now operate along and near Massachusetts Avenue on the ground that was once the Brightwood Airport.

In 1930, news reports detailed a number of glider

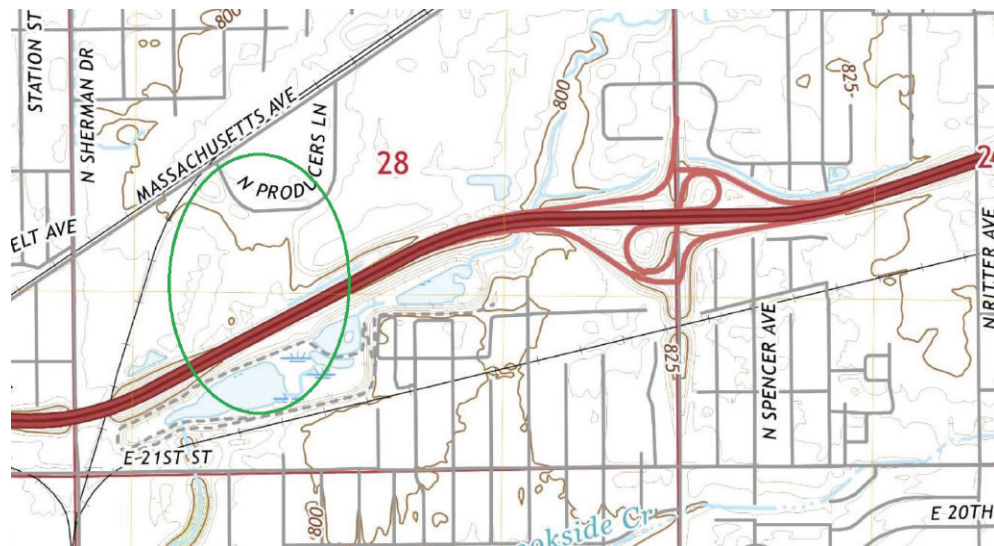
flights that took place at Brightwood Airport. Crowds estimated in the range of 1,000 to 5,000 people would watch these air events, according to several news reports at the time. The gliders were typically launched at this airport by towing them with an automobile. News reports indicated some individuals were injured in these activities; at least one person died after falling with his plane from 5,000 feet in the air.

On May 30, 1931, the Indianapolis Recorder included an advertisement for "Colored Day at Brightwood

Airport." The ad indicated that people should "Come on out, bring your wife or girl and see your city from the air. It does look different."

A news report in 1932 indicated that the land was then "... the old Brightwood Airport."

On Sept. 18, 1945, the front page of one section of The Indianapolis Star noted that a new Brightwood Airport was being proposed by the Marion County Aviation Board. In October 1945, news reports indicated that the new airport was approved for operations by



Interstate 70 (the roadway in red) now travels through part of what was once the Brightwood Airport (roughly in the area of the green circle in the map). (The map was provided courtesy of the United States Geological Survey, 2019.)

the Marion County Plan Commission. The site included 200 acres between Massachusetts Avenue and 21st Street near the rail yards that once operated in Brightwood. Advertisements started being published on Oct. 20, 1945, noting the Brightwood Airport was “Indianapolis’ Downtown Airport.”

A promotion was run from the Brightwood Airport in July 1948 to give away 12,000 fresh cut roses to people who picked up “streamer cards” dropped from an airplane. An advertisement from “Indianapolis’ Progressive Florists” announced that streamer cards were going to be dropped from the “Rose Special Airplane” flown from Brightwood Airport during a two-hour time period on July 15. Recipients of the streamer cards would be able to redeem each card for a free rose at a participating florist in Indianapolis.

This “new” Brightwood Airport did not last long.

During the late 1940s, the site of the airport was proposed as the new location of a produce market. This new market was designed to replace and enlarge operations for business that bought and sold food products in the Greater Indianapolis Area.

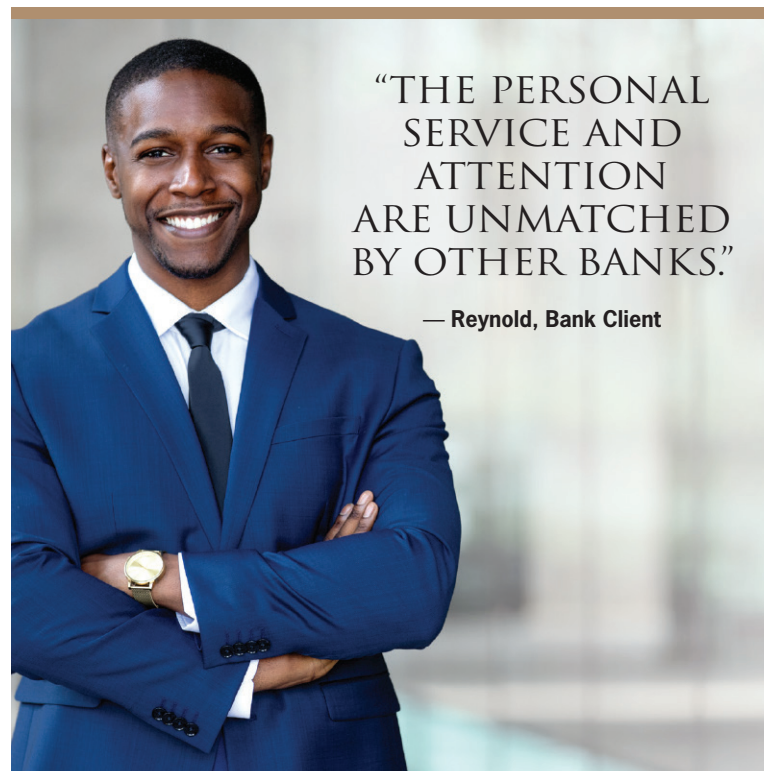
“The independent dealers [of fruits and vegetables], for the most part, are

located on South New Jersey Street, East South Street, South East Street, and Virginia Avenue,” according to The Wholesale Produce Market at Indianapolis, Ind. issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in June 1950. “Brightwood Airport ... has many advantages as a possible location for a new market.”

A report issued by the American Society of Planning Officials in January 1955 noted the Indianapolis Produce Market opened on the site of the former Brightwood Airport on Sept. 20, 1954. Information Report No. 70 issued by this organization indicated it cost \$2.5 million to build the new facility that was “... the result of nearly seven years of study. In 1947, a group of fruit and vegetable dealers, seeing that the present market could not handle the increasing volumes of produce handled in the city, began to look for a suitable site for a new market. In 1948, a site [the Brightwood Airport] was purchased and plans prepared for a new market.”

Brightwood Airport operated for some time after its land was sold for the new produce market. The exact date when flights ended at the airport is not certain though it appears to may have been sometime in late 1951 or early 1952.

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HERD STRATEGIES: 1 DECADE LATER

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Denise Herd has always had the entrepreneurial spirit. As an undergraduate at Clark Atlanta University, she and some friends had a balloon business for Valentine's Day, and after doing communications work for several organizations after college, Herd went on to create Herd Strategies, her own public relations firm in Indianapolis. Along with a small staff, Herd creates and implements communications strategies for her clients, as well as crisis management public relations.

It all started with an internship at the Indiana Repertory Theatre (IRT). As a graduate student at IUPUI, Herd was hired in the marketing department.

"I learned everything that I know about PR," Herd said of her internship. "I ended up getting hired full time and started off as a company manager, which basically you're like the glorified babysitter to the actor."

After the marketing director moved Herd into her department, she became the manager of diversity and media relations for IRT, where she honed her skills in writing press releases and creating public relations strategies. After IRT, Herd did communications work for several other organizations, including Indiana Black Expo (IBE). After leaving IBE, Herd wasted no time in starting her business.

"I always knew I wanted to have my own business," Herd said. "My father always told me, 'There's no such thing as a part-time entrepreneur,' so after Expo, my dad suggested I go ahead and start my own business. ... I literally drove to my parents' house and sat down that same day after this traumatic experience and we started writing my business plan. I never took any time off, I didn't even look for a job. I didn't dip my toe in the water, I put my whole body in the water."

Despite the success of her business — she does work for the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, IRT, and Indiana Neighborhood Association, among others — Herd is quick to acknowledge the role that others, namely other female business owners, had in the blossoming of Herd Strategies.

When Herd opened her business in 2011, she was one of just a few Black women to run her own public relations firm, and support was sometimes difficult to come by. Deborah Oatts, founder of Nubian Construction, was the first client Herd cold pitched after hearing she was looking for someone to do public

relations work for her company. Herd cites Oatts and Debra Wilson of Engaging Solutions as two women who have encouraged and guided her along the way.

"You have to put people around you who tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear," Herd said. "We work together on a lot of things and support one another. Those two businesses and ladies have just really been mothers of entrepreneurship for me and put me in places they knew would be good for me. They've told me, 'We won't let you fail,' and I really value that."

That support and encouragement is what Herd tries to give back to others. As an adjunct professor of public relations at IUPUI, Herd said she wants students to know that she believes in them and wants them to thrive in the public relations world. One of her former students, Christopher Mitchem, interned at Herd Strategies while in college.

Herd helped Mitchem advance to other internships, including one in the Indiana General Assembly. Mitchem currently works as a specialist at Bose Public Affairs Group in Indianapolis.

"It was hard for me to find individuals to talk to help me along the way," Herd said of her early days as a business owner. "That's when I decided if I can't find a trail I can travel down, I'll blaze the trail. ... It's not about me, it's about the generations behind me, and how I can help pull them forward and give them opportunities and council and advice so they don't travel down some of the paths that I did."

In the decade Herd has had her business, Herd Strategies has grown considerably, particularly when it comes to

visibility in the community. Each week, the company publishes a blog from staff members, as well as a "Friday Feature," highlighting someone in the community. Herd said she's proud of the work she and her team did during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to use social media to connect community members with resources including testing, food access and Wi-Fi access for those working and learning from home.

Herd recognizes every business owner will make mistakes from time to time, but she hopes her story inspires others to take the leap into entrepreneurship, and to just enjoy the ride.

"I want people to know that there's no wrong in your journey," Herd said. "There's twists and turns, but it's all your journey. It's yours. You don't have to be afraid or embarrassed, the best thing to do is own it and celebrate it and grow from it. ... If there's something you desire, go for it. If it's meant to be, it will fall into place."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.



Eskenazi Health celebrates Black History Month.



ESKENAZI HEALTH





James Monger (center) stands with students at Center for Leadership Development during Alumni Week. (Photo provided by CLD)

'YOU HAVE TO DO THE WORK': JAMES MONGER REFLECTS ON CLD LESSONS

By TYLER FENWICK
tylerf@indyrecorder.com

James Monger stepped into the real world better prepared than most. He spent his formative years at the Center for Leadership Development (CLD), then a startup program, and he owns the honor of being part of the organization's first class.

Monger was exposed to business leaders, philanthropic titans, people whose name carried some weight in Indianapolis. There was Henry Bundles, of course, the late founding president of CLD. Add in people like former Indianapolis Urban League President Joseph Slash and the list gets impressive.

Monger saw what it takes to be successful. He learned about networking,

interacting with people professionally, building relationships, establishing a brand.

Those were tools Monger had, and he trusts that the thousands of students who have gone through CLD after him have found the same thing. But when he had the opportunity recently to talk with students during Alumni Week, Monger knew there was something extra he could add.

"You just have to be prepared to do the work," he told them.

That applies to high school, college, all the way through a career.

"No one is going to look at the letters behind your name if you have a professional degree and give you anything," he said. "You have to do the work."

Monger knows about the work be-

cause he's done it.

He is the diversity, equity and inclusion champion at Cargill, a global food corporation based in Minnesota with locations in Lafayette and Indianapolis. Monger started in 1984 in merchandising, and he's worked all over the country.

Monger graduated from Shortridge High School and Purdue University.

Beyond the more technical skills he got from CLD, Monger saw the benefit of getting to mingle with students from schools in other parts of the city, such as Crispus Attucks High School and Arsenal Tech High School.

He built friendships with students he may have never gotten to know otherwise. It was easy enough to spend time with the Shortridge students he already knew, but Monger also recognized the

importance of understanding other people his age who might have had different experiences and cultures.

"It was really that first exposure to diversity for me," he said.

Monger guessed it was probably two or three years into his career when he realized how lucky he was to have had a program like CLD. He knows it takes time to learn that lesson, but even at that, he can't help but think the same thing everyone else thinks later in life: If only these kids understood the gift they're receiving.

Contact staff writer Tyler Fenwick at 317-762-7853. Follow him on Twitter @Ty_Fenwick.



HOGSETT DECLARES NOV. 20 'MIKE EPPS DAY' AFTER NETFLIX TAPING

By STAFF

After comedian and Indianapolis native Mike Epps finished a sold-out show at Madam Walker Theatre on Nov. 20, 2021, Mayor Joe Hogsett, Rep. Andre Carson and Madam Walker Legacy Center President Kristian Little Stricklen kept the celebration going.

Joining Epps onstage after the taping of his upcoming Netflix special, Hogsett declared Nov. 20 "Mike Epps Day" in Indianapolis.

From Nov. 19-20, Epps performed three sold out shows.

"I am excited to not only film my Netflix special in my hometown, but also at the historic Madam Walker Theatre where there is so much Black history," Epps said in a statement. "It's only right that I shine a light on my city."

Epps also became the first inductee into the Madam Walker Legacy Center Walk of Fame for his contributions to the city.



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MAJOR TAYLOR MURAL HONORS A TRAILBLAZER

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Nine years before Jack Johnson became the first African American heavyweight champion and 48 years before Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier, there was Marshall "Major" Taylor.

In 1899, the Indianapolis native became the first Black cycling world champion. Throughout his career, which ended in 1910, Taylor established seven world records, defeating opponents from around the globe and persevering through racist attacks, verbal and physical. Despite his successes, Taylor died penniless in the charity ward of Cook County Hospital outside of Chicago and was buried in a pauper's grave in 1932 at the age of 53.

Now, thanks to a friendship between avid cyclists Dan Lee and Anthony Bridgeman and a partnership with the Arts Council of Indianapolis, Major Taylor's legacy in Indianapolis is memorialized in a mural. Chicago-based artist Shawn Michael Warren added Taylor's likeness to the Barnes & Thornburg building at the southeast corner of East Washington and South Meridian streets, about 60 feet off the ground. The mural, adorned with Taylor's quote, "I was a pioneer, and therefore had to blaze my own trail," depicts the cyclist in various stages of his racing career.

Lee first learned of Taylor as a sophomore at Ball State University. Andrew Richie's 1988 biography, "Major Taylor: The Extraordinary Career of a Champion Bicycle Racer," had just been published, and Lee was constantly looking for ways to learn more about the Hoosier legend. Lee,

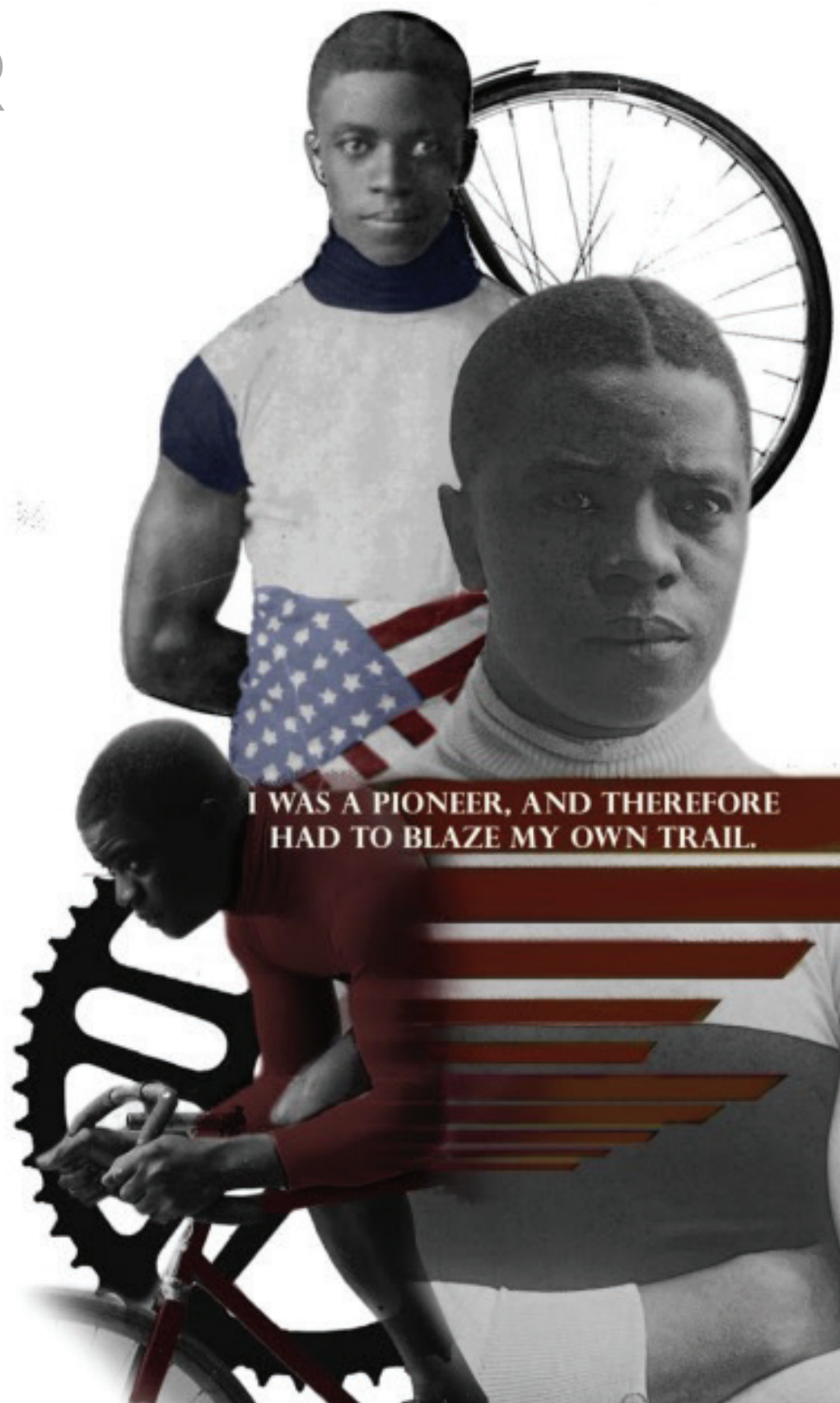
who works for the bicycle company SRAM, went so far as to recreate a 75-mile race Taylor participated in, spanning from Massachusetts Avenue in Indianapolis to Grant County, near Marion. He said the mural will remember Taylor not just for his racing abilities, but for the values: namely determination and perseverance that Taylor embraced throughout his life.

"This is such a great moment for Major Taylor," Lee said. "I think he can say something to everyone in our country. ... He overcame a tremendous amount of hardship and discrimination and racism, and he still managed to show everyone around him grace, and he had a strong Christian faith. His is just a very compelling story. We've gone through a tough stretch in our country as far as division, and I feel like he can speak to a true kind of justice and unity."

Born in Indianapolis in 1878, Taylor worked in various bicycle shops and began his racing career in the Circle City. Despite his early successes on the track, Taylor faced frequent harassment and discrimination in Indianapolis. He ended up moving to Massachusetts as a teenager, where he began to break records.

Bridgeman said the mural, along with a historical marker dedication on the Monon Trail in 2009, are signs the city is moving in the right direction.

"I think it does represent a change to some degree," Bridgeman said. "I'm glad that individuals and institutions are recognizing the raw deal that Taylor received when he was a resident here in Indianapolis, and





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I think it's great that he's finally getting his due."

Of course, Taylor's experiences with racism weren't limited to Indianapolis. Bridgeman recounts an incident in 1897 when Taylor beat cyclist William Becker in a race, which resulted in Becker throwing Taylor to the ground and choking him until he lost consciousness. Along with a brief suspension, Becker was only charged with a \$50 fine before he was reinstated.

"Despite all of those things, he still persevered and continued to dominate his rivals," Bridgeman said. "It's great now that Indianapolis is embracing who was once its prodigal son."

Both Lee and Bridgeman hope pass-

ersby will be inspired by Taylor's tenacity.

"I hope that more people, especially young people, get to know who Major Taylor was and learn about his story," Bridgeman said. "Even though there are challenges around you, I'd like young people to not despair but to see that if they stay dedicated to their craft, whatever that is, if they stay dedicated to being good people and disciplined about the way they live their lives ... there's opportunities for them to succeed beyond the people that may want to pull them down. They can persevere."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.





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RESIDENTS STILL REMEMBER 'NEIGHBORHOOD OF SATURDAYS'



Participants in the community picnic in 2019 pose with a photo of themselves at the inaugural picnic in 1975. (Photo provided by Beverle Miller)

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

Head south toward Lucas Oil Stadium, and it's nearly impossible to tell that you're driving through the remnants of a once thriving neighborhood made up largely of African Americans and Jewish immigrants. These communities lived side by side from the 1920s — when

many Jewish immigrants settled in the United States — until the 1960s, when many in the Jewish community began to migrate north toward Carmel. A decade later, many of the remaining African American families were displaced by the creation of the interstate.

Despite the years that have passed and the differences in what the area looks like today, former residents of the south side



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neighborhood still gather every summer for a community-wide picnic on the first Saturday in August. While the tradition started in 1975, researcher and IUPUI anthropology professor Susan Hyatt didn't learn about it until 2008. Since then, she's gotten to know the former residents and learned more about what the community used to look like.

"That first picnic was in 1975, so we're talking almost 50 years ago," Hyatt said. "After all this time, people still feel so attached to the neighborhood that they keep coming back, even though the neighborhood doesn't have the same physical existence."

Beverle Miller remembers attending the picnics as a child in Babe Denny Park, previously called Michael Street Park. While many in the neighborhood were displaced in the 1960s and '70s, the area is still important to many former residents.

"People still consider this their backyard, and it has so much value to us," Miller said. "Everyone at the original picnic were working-class men, and they worked in the community and loved their community."

Miller's fondest memory of the annual picnic was the 2008 community gathering, because it was the last one her father, Joseph Miller, attended. That year, the park was filled with returning former residents and their families.

When Hyatt attended her first picnic, she started talking to people about their memories of the old neighborhood, which she presumed had always been a predominately Black community. She said she was fascinated by the fact that there used to be a large Jewish population in the area. By chance, she met Benjamin Linder, grandson of Lee Mallah, a Jewish woman who had lived in the neighborhood. Linder helped Hyatt research the community and helped bring Jewish families who used to live in the area to the picnics to reconnect with their old neighbors.

"I've been there since 1958, and I've always taken pride in the community and am proud of where I come from," Miller said. "We're still able to have that connection, but a lot of times in the African American and Jewish communities, we realize that some of the same things happened to us, and we can look back and understand why we stay connected."

Hyatt has attended picnics — as well as have her anthropology students attend — to learn more about the former residents and their stories since 2008. In 2012, she published her book, "The Neighborhood of Saturdays: Memories of a Multi-Ethnic Community on Indianapolis' Southside," which includes firsthand accounts of the neighborhood and depictions of the picnics throughout the years, which often include time for residents to share their memories of what the community used to look like. To Hyatt's mind, no other community like the "Neighborhood of Saturdays" exists in Indianapolis today. Miller said the book gave people the opportunity to record their history.

"It's almost like our story was never told," Miller said. "When we had an opportunity to tell our story, we wanted to tell it. You always hear the story of Indiana Avenue and Crispus Attucks High School. But a lot of people didn't know we still exist."

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaN-Cooper.

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NEW ESSAY COLLECTION CELEBRATES BLACK LIBRARIANS

By **BREANNA COOPER**
BreannaC@indyrecorder.com

A new essay collection, “The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance and Reawakening,” has been released by the Black Caucus of the Library Association (BCALA). Published by Rowman & Littlefield, the essays were written by and for Black librarians to call attention to race, diversity, recruitment and activism within the library profession. It’s part of “The Black Librarian in America” series and is the first volume to be edited entirely by women — Shauntee Burns-Simpson, Nichelle M. Hayes, Dr. Ana Ndumu and Dr. Shaundra Walker.

“The book overall is broken into four themes,” Burns-Simpson, a librarian at New York Public Library, said. “We talk about Black librarian history, talking about our collective as well as individual identity. We’re all Black but all coming from different kinds of Blackness — we’re made up of men and women, from different places around the world — but we’re talking about how to move forward as a profession as Black librarians.”

The essays also discuss the activism of librarians and some of the difficulties that libraries across the nation are having in the recruitment and retention of Black librarians and librarians of color.

Hayes, a librarian at Indianapolis Public Library (IndyPL) and leader

of the Center for Black Literature and Culture, said the essay collection gives readers a more dynamic look at librarianship and puts some of its issues into context.

“What it does is it gives you a different voice to hear from, which is important,” Hayes said. “If you’re only hearing a tenor, you think that’s all the choir is, but you need to be able to hear the altos and sopranos. ... We’re talking a lot about our experiences in libraries and getting into the field, and the stresses. It paints a unique picture.”

Starting Feb. 18, BCALA will have virtual book tour events. Once COVID-19 cases decrease, Hayes hopes to have an in-person gathering at IndyPL’s Central branch, though no date has been set. While the book is geared toward librarians, Burns-Simpson said the issues discussed in the essays are important for the whole community.

“Our libraries are probably the most democratic institution there is in the country, following the principles the country was founded on,” Burns-Simpson said. “Members of our communities need to see themselves in the staffing and programming we provide.”

“The Black Librarian in America: Reflections, Resistance and Reawakening” is now available to purchase at bcala.org/orderbook.

Contact staff writer Breanna Cooper at 317-762-7848. Follow her on Twitter @BreannaNCooper.

THE BLACK LIBRARIAN IN AMERICA



*Reflections,
Resistance, and
Reawakening*



Edited by **SHAUNTEE BURNS-SIMPSON,**
NICHELLE M. HAYES, ANA NDUMU, and SHAUNDRAL WALKER
For the Black Caucus of the American Library Association

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Crispus Attucks High School as seen from 12th Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street in Indianapolis. (The photograph was provided courtesy of Jim Grey, June 23, 2010.)



WHAT'S IN A NAME, INDY? CRISPUS ATTUCKS HIGH SCHOOL

By **RICHARD MCDONOUGH**

Crispus Attucks High School was designed to be the segregated high school for Black teenagers in Indianapolis. The school served that purpose for decades until Indianapolis Public Schools desegregated its high school operations.

“Separate But Equal” was not just a slogan — it was public policy in Indianapolis.

This school was established at a time when the governments of Indianapolis and the state of Indiana

were controlled by white supremacists through the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan hated — and continues to hate — a wide variety of people and acted on that hate against those that its members considered to be beneath them — individuals who practiced Roman Catholicism, Judaism, and Islam as well as individuals of African, Irish, Italian, Polish and other ethnic heritages, among others.

Prior to the school's opening in 1927, students of all races — including Black students — attended several area public high schools in Indianapolis. The leader-

ship of the city decided it was time to place all Black high school students in one high school in 1922. The site chosen was near neighborhoods that were largely segregated. For decades, most Black individuals and families were limited to living in certain sections of Indianapolis.

The idea to establish a segregated high school in Indianapolis was years in the making.

On June 24, 1899, the Indianapolis Recorder noted there were discussions about creating a segregated high school: “The necessity for the establishment of

a colored high school in Indianapolis is not yet at hand; let us not urge it.”

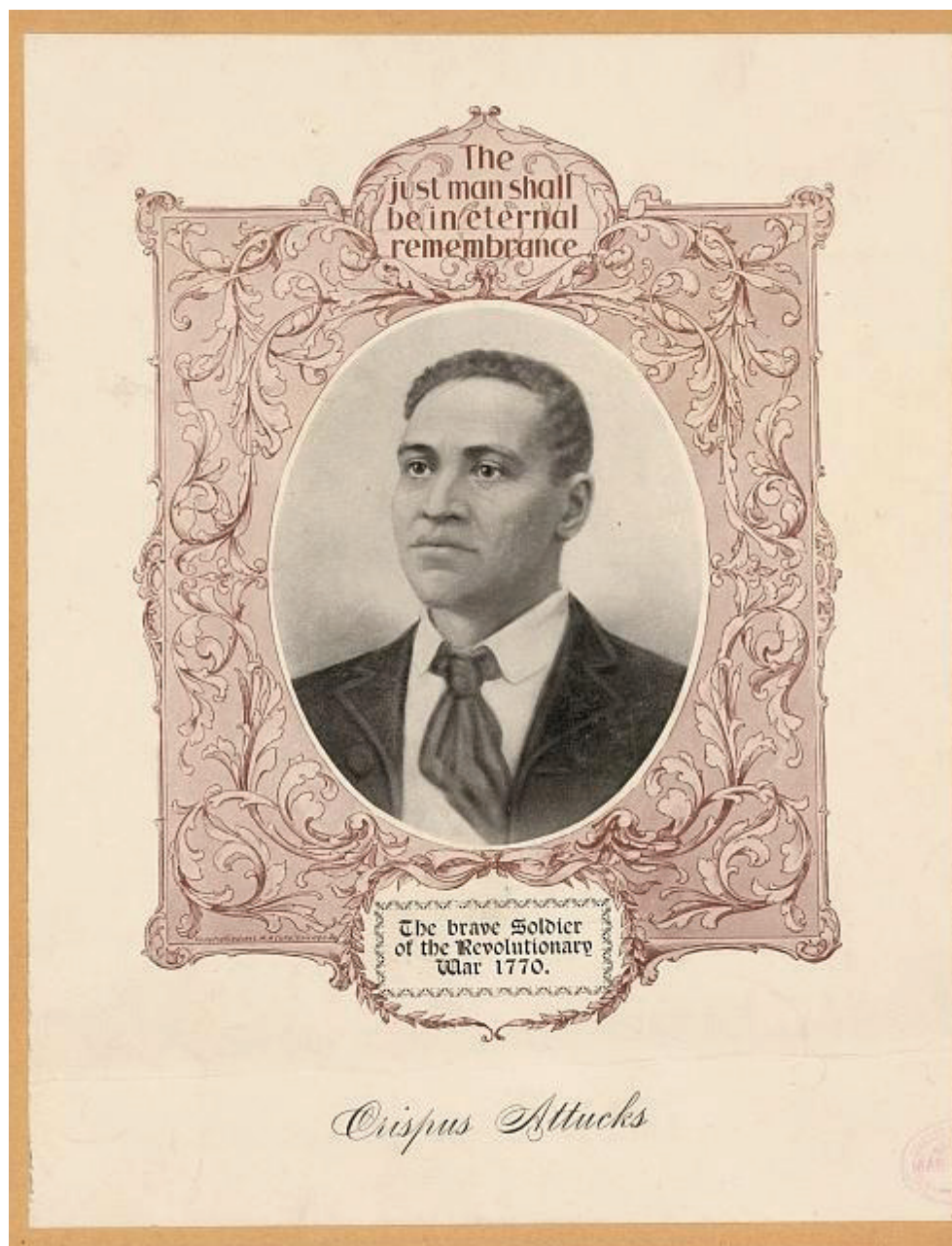
In 1908, the registration form filed with the National Park Service stated Black teenagers were able to attend the two public high schools then in operation in Indianapolis — “though proportionately few did ... Nevertheless, by 27 October 1908, [Indianapolis] Superintendent of Schools Calvin Kendall identified the integration of the high schools as a problem and noted the [Indianapolis School] board must begin to think in terms of a separate Black high school. ‘This building,’ suggested Kendall, ‘should be west of the canal ... Sooner or later it will be necessary to remove the colored children from the present high schools.’”

The leadership in the business community of Indianapolis, according to this registration form, strongly backed a segregated high school for Black students: “In September of 1922, a delegation from the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce petitioned for a separate high school for Negro children, and that it be modern and completely equipped – the much touted notion of ‘separate but equal.’ In the months that followed, the board discussed the question of a ‘colored high school’ thoroughly.”

The Indianapolis News included a headline in its edition dated Oct. 19, 1922, that stated “Colored High School Question Up Again.” The news article indicated that a school official stated that “... such a high school ... would seem to be a solution of the problem of congestion in the high schools.”

A letter to the editor of The Indianapolis News from someone with the initials “J.E.M.” on Oct. 25, 1922, highlighted how some local residents were against the idea of a segregated high school. In the letter, the individual stated that “If Indianapolis wishes to place a stain upon her name she should build a colored high school. But on the other hand if she wishes to become one of the leading cities of the country she must not let race prejudice take her right hand.”

Among those that supported the idea of segregation — voluntary segregation — was the interracial committee of the Indianapolis Council of Social Agencies. In a news article dated May 29,



A memorial portrait of what Crispus Attucks may have looked like in the 1700s. (Image courtesy of the Library of Congress, circa 1897)

1925, The Indianapolis Star reported the agency issued a report stating, “We are of the opinion that practically all of the colored high school students of the city would, within a short time, be found within such a school without resorting to compulsory segregation.” The subcommittee, though, disagreed with the site at 12th Street and West Street (today’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street).

According to the registration form seeking historical status filed with the National Park Service on Oct. 15, 1987,

the three story, brick structure opened to students in 1927 and was expanded twice. Additions were placed onto the initial structure in 1938 and in 1966. In 1989, Crispus Attucks High School was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

While a high school for most of its history, this structure served junior high school and middle school students from 1986 to 2006. Today, students of all races are educated at this school in grades 9 through 12. Specialized educational

programs are available for students in health sciences and education.

“Despite the opposition of the Better Indianapolis League, a civic organization of progressive Black citizens, prominent Black citizens, and Black churches, the [Indianapolis] school board voted unanimously to build a separate high school [for Black students] in [December of] 1922,” according to the National Park Service. “Archie Greathouse, a Black community leader, held up construction with a series of court challenges, but the school board prevailed. The board decided to name the new school ‘Thomas Jefferson High School’ [in June of 1925].”

Many in the Black community opposed naming the new school after Thomas Jefferson. They noted that while Thomas Jefferson was the third president of our country, he also owned human beings as slaves.

Both Crispus Attucks, a former slave, and Paul Laurence Dunbar, a Black poet, were suggested as alternative individuals to be namesakes for the new high school. It was noted by Indianapolis school leaders, though, that an elementary school was already named after Paul Laurence Dunbar. It should be noted that leaders of the Indianapolis schools did not have a problem with two schools with the “Thomas Jefferson” name; there was already a school named after Thomas Jefferson in operation in Indianapolis at the time the new segregated high school was being built.

The National Park Service noted there were “... numerous petitions [starting in February of 1926] to change the name to ‘Crispus Attucks High School’ in honor of the former slave killed in the 1770 Boston Massacre, who is generally considered the first to die in the American Revolution.” According to a news article dated March 27, 1926, in The Indianapolis News, the “... Colored Parent-Teacher Association [reported]...that the name of Crispus Attucks was the most favored [name] by the colored people of the city.”

Prior to considering Thomas Jefferson, Crispus Attucks, and Paul Laurence Dunbar as potential names for the new segregated high school, the initial name considered was Roosevelt High School. This was to honor President Theodore

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

EXHIBIT:

On view through March 3

FEATURING:

- A newly unveiled bust sculpture of Barack Obama *by artist Norman Norori*
- Indiana Historical Society traveling exhibit; “Local Speech, Global Reach”
- Plus, discover the stories of local and unsung heroes of Black History

IMMERSION EVENT:

Saturday February 26 | 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

FEATURING:

- A first-person presentation of Harriet Tubman *by Delores Thornton*
- A liturgical dance *by Linda Lewis-Everett and Lana Lewis-Talib*
- A presentation from *David Leander Williams*, author of *African Americans in Indianapolis*, and more

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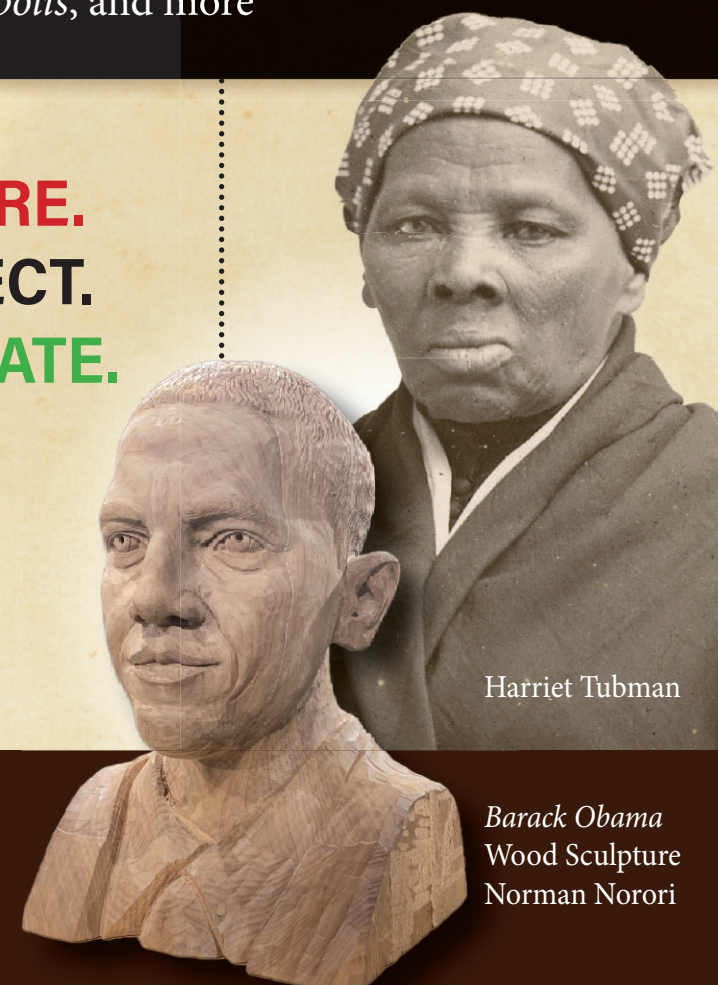
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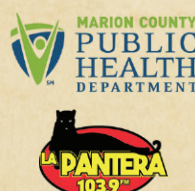
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Wed: 10 am to 7 pm
Sat: 12 pm to 4 pm
Sun: **Closed**



Harriet Tubman

Barack Obama
Wood Sculpture
Norman Norori



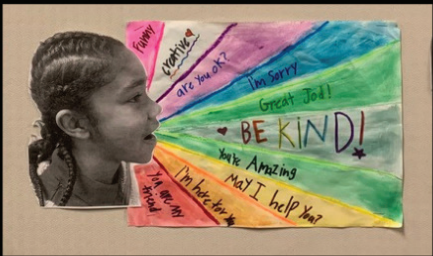
MOPS

Marion County Public Schools
Celebrating History ● Making History



In honor of Black History Month, Marion County Public Schools proudly celebrate the contributions made by Black Americans. We stand together, dedicated to providing equitable opportunities for our students to learn in an inclusive environment, staffed by outstanding diverse educators.

We thank our communities for their continued support.



Roosevelt. School board members, according to a news article dated July 1, 1925, in *The Indianapolis Star*, “... refused to accept the recommendation of ... Roosevelt for the new colored high school.”

After all of the discussions, petitions, and meetings, the name Crispus Attucks High School was approved by the Indianapolis school board.

Even prior to opening, the concept of this new high school being “separate but equal” to other high schools was known to be a lie. A news article dated Aug. 17, 1925, in *The Indianapolis News*, stated “Indianapolis will build the new West Side High School for \$416 a pupil and the new Jefferson (colored) High School for approximately \$400 a pupil...”

That approach was considered perfectly legal at the time.

On May 16, 1924, *The Indianapolis News* reported a judge in Marion County ruled “... the segregation of Negroes was constitutional, that disparities in distance and material grandeur are immaterial, and that courts can not interfere with courses of study prescribed consistently to law.”

Given the reality of the day, many Black individuals and families worked to make the school as successful as possible.

“The high school became a strong source of pride in the Black community when it opened in 1927, despite initial opposition,” the document from the National Park Service continued. “Though taxed for space and equipment, faculty was the best available, hired from traditionally Black colleges in the South. Students were taught a special course in Black history as well as the usual subjects.”

The front page of the *Indianapolis Recorder* highlighted positive aspects of the Crispus Attucks High School in a news article dated Sept. 10, 1927. “The school authorities are to be congratulated on the type of the faculty selected,” the news article reported. “Practically all of the large colleges and universities are represented and outstanding results are expected from the teaching force. We feel certain that our boys and girls will be well taken care of from the point of view of instruction.”

The news article went on to comment that the school was “... wonderfully equipped by the [School] Board...” and



The interior of the Crispus Attucks High School. (The photograph was produced by Edward Evans and provided courtesy of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation)

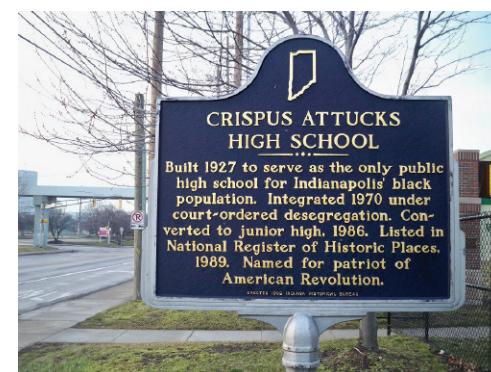
that parents will be “delighted” that the school board was providing sufficient musical instruments for the students to have their own band and orchestra at the school.

The document from the National Park Service explained that “School segregation was outlawed in Indiana in 1949, but the student body remained almost exclusively African American until the 1970s, when busing for racial integration began.”

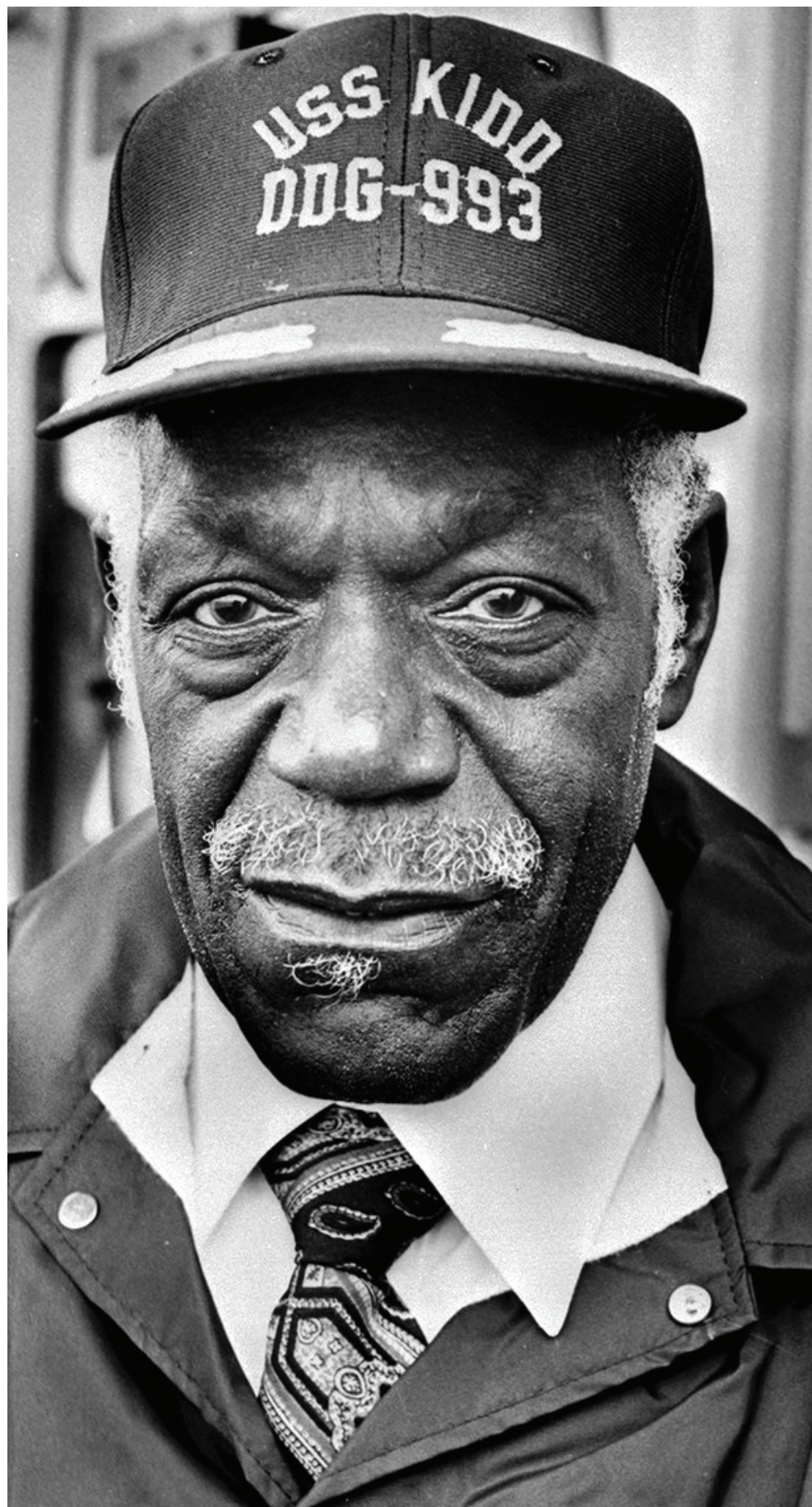
While Black high school students were able to attend other high schools as Indianapolis Public Schools desegregated through the 1950s and 1960s, Crispus Attucks High School remained as a high school with only Black students for decades. The State of Indiana indicated

“...1971 is a more accurate estimate...” of the date when Crispus Attucks High School was actually desegregated.

Note: One item that is not yet clear involves information detailed in a news article dated June 15, 1925, on page 20 in *The Indianapolis News*: “The [Indianapolis School] board authorized the sale of the old colored high school site to R. L. Britfenback for \$70.” It is not certain where the site of this school was located and whether it was simply a site set aside at some point for a future “colored high school,” whether it was a piece of land at what became the site of the Crispus Attucks High School that was not needed for the new high school, whether it actively operated as a “colored high school,” or whether it involved something else.



A historical marker was erected by the Indiana Historical Bureau to recognize the significance of the Crispus Attucks High School. (Photo courtesy of the Indiana Historical Bureau Division of the Indiana State Library.)



Lieutenant Junior Grade Graham Edward Martin. (The photograph was provided courtesy of the U S Naval Institute.)

WHAT'S IN A NAME, INDY?

LT. J.G. GRAHAM EDWARD MARTIN PARK

By RICHARD MCDONOUGH

When you travel down Fall Creek Parkway near 16th Street, you'll see a sign for the Lt. j.g. Graham Edward Martin Park. This park, previously known as the Fall Creek and 16th Street Park, was renamed by the city of Indianapolis on Aug. 17, 2011. Slightly more than 67 acres of land are included at this site. A variety of recreational activities are available here.

You may have passed by the park and not realized that the man whose name now graces this Indianapolis landmark was an embodiment of grace while he walked among us.

Graham Edward Martin was an American citizen who helped change our nation through his leadership, the leadership of 12 of his colleagues, and the leadership of the men and women who made the decision to have this country move forward.

Martin was one of the first African Americans who became officers in the United States Navy. As a member of what was called the "Golden Thirteen," Martin helped desegregate the U.S. Navy. He and others showed the potential that had been left behind for years by governmental policies that denied opportunities to Americans of African descent. In the face of that discrimination, Martin and others showed grace with iron will to move forward.

According to the Indianapolis Parks and Recreation Department, "Mr. Martin graduated from Crispus Attucks High School, Indiana University, and Howard University before enlisting in

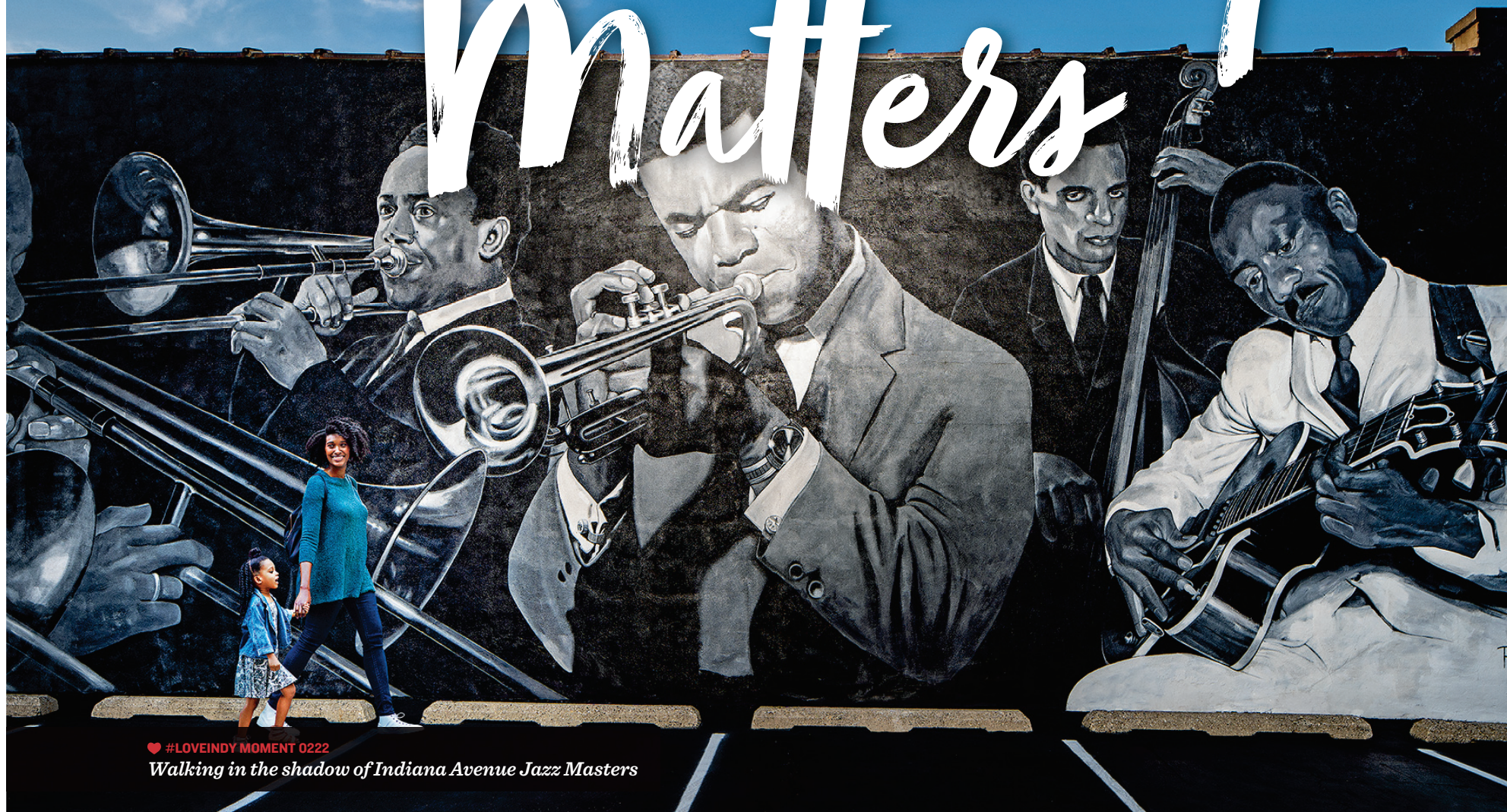
the Navy [in 1942]. In 1944, the Navy chose Mr. Martin as one of the first 13 African American men to train to become officers. They were commissioned as officers and created a path that changed the armed forces forever. Martin served four years in the Navy as a ship commander. Upon his return to Indianapolis, he coached ... football and baseball at Crispus Attucks from 1947-1982."

Helping Veterans and Families of Indiana (HVAF) released a statement from Martin's daughter, Elayne Lewis, at the time of the dedication of the park named in her father's honor. Lewis said Graham Edward Martin "...was a man who championed fairness for people from all walks of life." Lewis is a peer mentor at HVAF, an Indianapolis nonprofit organization.

"He was a very modest person and never wanted attention for himself, but my father always fought for justice for all people," Lewis continued. "My father was very proud to represent Indianapolis in his military and civilian life, and I am so happy that the city has chosen to proudly recognize him as one of its own."

The U.S. Naval Institute noted Martin "...had a master's degree in history when he enlisted in the Navy in 1942. He was the only Black player on the top-notch Great Lakes Naval Training Center football team. In early 1944, he was tapped for officer training and commissioned in March of that year. He then served as a battalion commander at Great Lakes, on board a yard patrol craft and a yard oiler at San Francisco, as athletic training officer in Hawaii and in Eniwetok [in

Black History Matters



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the Marshall Islands], and as a public information officer. After leaving the service in 1946 he earned another master's degree in education and embarked on a career of teaching and coaching at both collegiate and high school levels."

His leadership is recalled with fond memories by a number of people who knew him from his days at Crispus Attucks High School.

"He demanded that we be the best we could be and then more," stated David Carther, director of communications of the Crispus Attucks Alumni Lettermen's Club. "We all have our personal stories ... For me, had it not been for coach Martin I would not have had a suit for my graduation. He challenged me to achieve an objective in the wrestling state tournament sectionals and if I achieved the goal he would help me get a suit for graduation. I graduated wearing a tailor-made suit out of his generosity! I have never forgotten that!"

Others shared the sentiments of Mr. Carther.

"Graham E. Martin was a man who was accomplished in many things, but you would never know it because of his humble nature," noted Teddy Williams, president of the Crispus Attucks Alumni Lettermen's Club. "He had long since pushed his accomplishments aside to display a strong Black male image to his students and players. We as students and players, never knew about his prestigious history until much later after we graduated ... He was exceptional, full of wisdom and a historic figure working right among us and we didn't know it at the time."

"Coach Martin was a true educator with a quiet dignity, a role model with a strong demeanor and a person that let his actions do his talking," Williams continued. "Coach Martin didn't take no mess! Strong and to the point was his persona. I remember vividly the times when I would see him standing at the door of his classroom, writing letters in long hand, to colleges and universities to secure roster spots for his Attucks players. He would often send film to college and university coaches while often resending them until he received offers for us players. This was in the days of no e-mail and no digital game film, just old fashion snail mail and phone calls with sustained follow up."



Mr. Williams stated that he and his teammates "...never had the best uniforms or equipment but, he taught us how to do the best and play the best with what we had. Because I had no father in my home, coach Martin would leave his wife and daughter to represent me on dad's day at the college he helped secure for me and several other teammates. Coach Martin did this for four years and needless to say his actions inspired me and is the reason why I recognize him as great human being who gave of himself even when he didn't have to. There are many other examples of him motivating, challenging and inspiring me ..."

"I owe a great deal to this man who saved me from a life of destruction and who was the catalyst of who I am today,"

Williams detailed. "My story is repeated hundreds of times as verified by other Attucks players when we share stories of his impact on our lives. During his tenure at Crispus Attucks High School coach Martin planted seeds of success, dignity and respect in the lives of many African American students and players. We were blessed to have him as a teacher and coach – for that reason his memory lives on today."

Martin was born in 1917; he died in 2006.

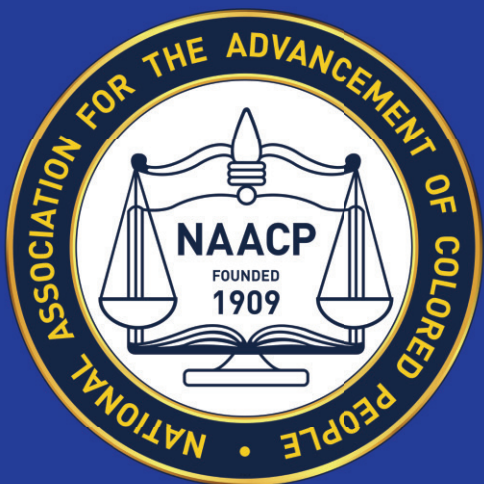
When you visit the Lieutenant Junior Grade Graham Edward Martin Park, as you enjoy the beauty of the site, remember the man whose name graces the sign. A man who helped change Indianapolis and helped change a nation.

This photograph includes 12 of the initial African American U.S. Navy officers. (Seated, left to right): Ensign George C. Cooper, USNR; Ensign Graham E. Martin, USNR; Ensign Jesse W. Arbor, USNR; Ensign John W. Reagan, USNR; Ensign Reginald E. Goodwin, USNR; (standing, left to right): Ensign Dennis D. Nelson, USNR; Ensign Phillip G. Barnes, USNR; Ensign Samuel E. Barnes, USNR; Ensign Dalton L. Baugh, USNR; Ensign James E. Hare, USNR; Ensign Frank E. Sublett, USNR; Warrant Boatswain Charles B. Lear, USNR. Not pictured Ensign William S. White, USNR. (The photograph was created by the U.S. Navy and provided courtesy of the National Archives, February 1944.)

NAACP

NAACP is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

<https://www.indynaacp.org/>



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INNOPOWER

2022 MINORITY BUSINESS WEEK

JUNE 13-17, 2022



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