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Ms. Gladys Barnett has joined the century club plus, celebrating her 102 birthday. See page 3.

Editorial



Maxine Session

With the Impeachment of President Trump, there has been much in the news about the Constitution of the United States. Do you know what the 13th Amendment is and how it affects you? The 13th Amendment was passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865.

Along with the 14th and 15th Amendments, the 13th Amendment was the first of the three Reconstruction Period amendments adopted following the Civil War. The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 freed slaves only in the 11 Confederate states.

Unlike the 14th and 15th Amendments, which apply only to the government, the 13th Amendment applies to the actions of private citizens.

Despite the 13th Amendment, vestiges of racial discrimination and inequality continues to exist in the voting rights, education, the legal system and the jobs market.

2020 THEME for Black History - African Americans and the Vote

The year 2020 marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. This theme has a rich and long history, which begins at the turn of the nineteenth century, i.e., in the era of the Early Republic, with the states' passage of laws that democratized the vote for white men while disfranchising free black men. Thus, even before the Civil War, black men petitioned their legislatures and the US Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters. Tensions between abolitionists and women's suffragists first surfaced in the aftermath of the Civil War, while black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries undermined the guarantees in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments for the great majority of southern blacks until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women's movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote. Indeed the fight for black voting rights continues in the courts today. The theme of the vote should also include the rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.

Sojourner Truth



"Ain't I a Woman?" is a speech, delivered ex-temporaneously, by Sojourner Truth, (1797–1883), born into slavery in New York State. Some time after gaining her freedom in 1827, she became a well known anti-slavery speaker. Her speech was delivered at

the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio, on May 29, 1851, and did not originally have a title. The speech was briefly reported in two contemporary newspapers, and a transcript of the speech was published in the Anti-Slavery Bugle on June 21, 1851. It received wider publicity in 1863 during the American Civil War when Frances Dana Barker Gage published a different version, one which became known as Ain't I a Woman? because of its oft-repeated question. This later, better known and more widely available version has been the one referenced by most historians.

20 Sojourner Truth Quotes Honoring the Fight for Equality

1. "I know and do what is right better than many big men who read." –
2. "I feel safe in the midst of my enemies, for the truth is all powerful and will prevail." –
3. "The rich rob the poor, and the poor rob one another." –
4. "I tell you I can't read a book, but I can read de people." –
5. "I'm not going to die, I'm going home like a shooting star." –

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Positive News About Local People!

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Saturday, January 25th 2020
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Teen girls age 7 to 14
Theme: Purity and Promises

Ms. Gladys Barnett of Elm Grove Celebrates 102 Years of Beautiful Life

Cover Story
Interview and information
from Sharon Phillips
by Maxine Session

During the period of time 1917 through 1920 a great movement of hundreds of thousands of black people from the south to the north was dubbed "The Great Migration". They migrated to the north in search of a better life. Gladys Barnett was born on January 5, 1918 in the Iron Hill community just north of Elm Grove. Her family stayed put.

Gladys was self educated, learning about her world and how to run it from the apron strings of her mother and the other women in her surroundings. Providing for the family came natural with the growing of their own vegetables and animals for meat and of course with that came the sewing of clothes to go on their backs and the cooking to feed their stomachs.

Ms. Barnett grew-up in Elm Grove and married Tyris Joe Barnett. Life's journey took her many places. She was raised to always have God in her life, so she joined Elm Grove Church of The Living God. As their children came along, Tyris Joe Bar-

nett, Wayne Barnett and Shirley Joe Barnett Morris and gradually nineteen grandchildren, it became their family church, too.

She raised her family, and worked outside the home. In the 1950's she and her husband opened the famous Joe Barnett Cafe. She learned fast how to become a business woman. The cooking skills she learned from her mother as a child came in handy in running the cafe. She cooked and served the most delicious hamburgers, fried chicken and other meals. The cafe provided a place for people in the community to eat and entertainment for them to enjoy. Of course, the dominoes could always be heard slapping the table top as the men played. Her granddaughter Sharon Phillips shared that she recently had a conversation with a friend of hers, Sharon Ward, who talked about the times she visited the cafe. Ms. Barnett would give her quarters to play the jukebox and watch her dance. She remembered those times as the good old days. When hiway 204 was



Ms. Gladys Barnett celebrated her 102nd birthday this month at Elm Grove Baptist Church. A service and reception were hosted by family with Evangelist Joann Irving Mistress of Ceremony and speaker Rev. Claudell Anderson." "I am so blessed and I have such a big beautiful family," Ms. Barnett said. Her children and great grandchildren participated in the program.

being constructed, the work crews ate at the cafe everyday and she rented rooms to some. Ms. Gladys worked at nursing homes, private homes and in the home of Dr. Crawford, the Jacksonville gynecologist who delivered many babies of the time. Cooking was her passion so she worked many years at Rusk Memorial Hospital. Sharon recalled that Dr,

Dr. W. E. Gabbert would check every morning to see if she was in the kitchen. He looked forward to eating whatever she cooked.

Ms. Gladys's grandchildren didn't like to sit by her at church because she shouted when she got happy. This meant you might get hit if you sat too close. Every Sunday after church Ms. Gladys' family gathered at her house for the big

Sunday meal she prepared for them. Now they prepare dinners for her. Sharon, Doris, Patricia, Regina, Carla and Melinda have remained close by her side. Ms. Barnett used the skills she learned from her mother and the women around her and now she has passed those skills on to her granddaughters and their children. She also has 22 great grandchildren.

Breastfeeding Stigma Could Unlock Lifesaving Benefits to Black Mothers and their Babies

Philadelphia, Pa. — The United States is one of the most dangerous places in the developed world for a black woman giving birth and for black infants in their first year of life.[i]

Stark racial disparities exist between black and white infants in the U.S. The infant mortality rate of non-Hispanic black infants is 10.9 per 1,000 live births, which is 2.3 times the infant mortality rate as non-Hispanic whites (4.7 per 1,000 live births).[ii] Despite the news, there is a healthy, cost-effective strategy to help reduce infant mortality: Breastfeeding.

Dr. Lenaye Lawyer, an OB-GYN and a market chief medical officer for AmeriHealth Caritas, a national leader in Medicaid managed care, said there should be greater awareness of the importance of raising the low black breastfeeding rate. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), black infants are 13 percent less likely to be breastfed than white infants.[iii]

“There are many factors that contribute to the low black breastfeeding rate,” Dr. Lawyer said. “We have to help ensure that hospitals and health clinics in minority communities have breastfeeding and lactation resources and information. And, we have to work with our community partners to remove the stigma of breastfeeding.”

The CDC’s Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) survey found that hospitals and health clinics in communities with more than a 12.2 percent black population were less likely to be supportive of breastfeeding.[iv]

Comparing facilities in areas with more than 12.2 percent black residents with facilities in areas with less than 12.2 percent black residents, the largest differences were in the percentage of facilities that implemented recommended practices related to helping mothers initiate breastfeeding early on (46 percent compared with 59.9 percent), having infants spend the majority of their time in the same room as their moms (27.7 percent compared with 39.4 percent), and limiting what infants eat or drink to only breast milk (13.1 percent compared with 25.8 percent), according to the CDC survey. These findings reveal racial disparities in access to maternity care practices known to support breastfeeding.[v]

An international study found that breastfeeding for at least two months cuts a baby’s risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) almost in half, and the longer babies are breastfed, the greater the protection.[vi] Breast milk is good nutrition for a baby, providing all the proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals, and enzymes that a young body needs to stay healthy.[vii] Infants who are breastfed have a lower risk of developing asthma, Type 2 diabetes, eczema, and obesity.[viii] For premature infants, breast milk can be lifesaving, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. The organization recommends that infants be exclusively breastfed for about the first six months with continued breastfeeding alongside introduction of complementary food for at least one year.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A Man to Be Remembered

Martin Luther King, Jr., original name Michael King, Jr., (born January 15, 1929, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.—died April 4, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee), Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968. His leadership was fundamental to that movement’s success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States. King rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolent tactics, such as the massive March on Washington (1963), to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

The King and Williams families had roots in rural Georgia. Martin Jr.’s grandfather, A.D. Williams, was a rural minister for years and then moved to Atlanta in 1893.

He took over the small, struggling Ebenezer Baptist church with around 13 members and made it into a forceful congregation. He married Jennie Celeste Parks and they had one child that survived, Alberta. Growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, King entered public school at age 5. In May 1936 he was baptized, but the event made little impression on him.

In 1954, while still working on his dissertation, King became pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church of Montgomery, Alabama. He completed his Ph.D. and earned his degree in 1955. King was only 25 years old. He came to view Christianity as a potential force for social change. After being accepted at several colleges for his doctoral study, King enrolled at Boston University.

We will never forget Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s trailblazing activism and soaring vision for a just America. After being assassinated on April 4, 1968, we are left with the eloquence of his words that continue to guide us forward as we strive to become a more perfect union.



Here are some inspiring quotes from MLK’s famous speeches and writings about education, justice, hope, perseverance and freedom:

If we are not careful, our colleges will produce a group of close-minded, unscientific, illogical propagandists, consumed with immoral acts. Be careful, ‘brethren!’ Be careful, teachers!”

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now.

This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy.”

AAP Policy on Racism Raises Bar for Clinicians and Health Care Workers

By Dr. Gail C. Christopher



Years ago, the race equity community approved when the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) acknowledged that social determinants of health - economic stability, education, social and community context, health and healthcare, and neighborhood and environment - are conditions that affect the quality of life for Americans. Deep down, we knew a big piece of the puzzle was still missing. Research demonstrated that exposure to racism can harm a person's mental and physical health. But the government never explicitly included racism as a social determinant of health, despite the abundance of evidence and the ever-growing health disparities imperiling people of color. However, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) valiantly stepped into the void. The organization of 67,000 pediatricians, which is committed to optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for infants, children, adolescents and young adults, recently issued a policy statement declaring that "racism is a social determinant of health" with a profound impact on the health status of children, adolescents, emerg

ing adults and their families. "Although progress has made toward racial equality and equity, the evidence to support continued negative impact of racism on health and well-being through implicit and explicit biases, institutional structures, and interpersonal relationships is clear," AAP stated. "The objective of this policy statement is to provide an evidence-based document focused on the role of racism in child and adolescent development and health outcomes..." Their statement is a significant development. It spells out that racism is inflicting harm on our babies as they grow, clearing the way for pediatricians and other pediatric health professionals to proactively engage in strategies to optimize clinical care, workforce development, professional education, systems engagement and research. These actions can reduce the health effects of structural, personally mediated and internalized racism, improving health and well-being of all children, adolescents, emerging adults and their families. Further, the nation's changing demographics dictate the need for pediatricians to have an unbiased office environment for children and their families - data shows that half of the children in American last year were non-white, while U.S Census data indicated up to two-thirds of pediatricians are white. The demographic imperative

coupled with the rise in hate crimes and overtly expressed racist, hateful and anti-immigrant sentiments create urgency for protective, harm mitigating actions now.

The AAP policy is a beacon of hope in troubled times. With this mandate, pediatrics can have a powerful impact on the nation - they touch every child, and nearly every family. I am not aware of another major medical entity that has dealt with racism in such explicit terms. Their directive aligns with #Rx Racial Healing, a movement activating a critical mass of people committed to working together and healing the wounds of the past as we seek to end racism and the inequities it has created. Perhaps others have

designed there is no pill or surgery that can be ordered to nations out of fear that they don't have a cure - after all jettison the fundamental premise of a hierarchy of human value, which is what fuels racism. As a nation, we must discard this belief that skin color and ethnicity make a child or adult inferior or superior to another. But today, we have demonstrated, and AAP seemingly has recognized, there is an effective path forward against the belief in a hierarchy of human value. The seeds were planted some 35 years ago when, with the support of philanthropic foundations and education associations, we launched "Americans

All," an initiative focused on bringing children from all races and cultures together to explore their collective experiences. It embodies the chief strategy for jettisoning the belief in a hierarchy of human value - creating environments where people, children and adults, build trust with one another, recognizing that they have so much in common. Our focus today is on advancing #Rx Racial Healing. It will reshape communities, using a new interconnectedness to bring more equitable practices and policies for living, policing and governing and lead to a more equitable distribution of resources. Our focus today is on advancing #Rx Racial Healing. It will reshape communities, using a new interconnected

ness to bring more equitable practices and policies for living, policing and governing and lead to a more equitable distribution of resources. It underscores the importance of the AAP's declaration. These doctors have publicly repudiated the ideology of a hierarchy of human value. That means so much. It is largely unspoken, but many African Americans, especially our children, feel apprehension the first time they step in an examining room of a white doctor. Does this doctor really care about me? Is this doctor racist? Will I be treated differently, as some studies indicate, because I am Black? The AAP took a major step towards re-

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Ebony Griffin graduates Magna Cum Laude from UT



Ebony Ja'von Griffin, the daughter of Emerson and Jackie Griffin, is a Rusk High School graduate. She recently graduated magna cum laude from UT Tyler with a 4.0 gpa and a BS degree in Biology. Her completion came a semester early. Her career plans are to continue to medical school and obtain a PhD in Pediatric Gastroenterologist.

Eagle Nation Little Dribbler Season Begins In RISD



Marcus Carter, coordinator for RISD Little Dribbles, held a skills training clinic on Saturday, January 11, 2020 where more than 100 children participated. The clinic was held from 10:00 to 2:00 at Rusk Junior High gymnasium. Parents and Little Dribblers enjoyed a lunch of hot pizza. The event closed with Mr. Carter addressing the group about unity, support for the Rusk Eagles athletics program and love. Daren Franklin is his assistant. First games begin January 18th.

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Krystal Carter attends birth equity conference and reception



Krystal Carter, staff physician and other staff

1) Why did you attend?

Earlier in May of this year I was invited to attend a conversation and reception about Birth Equity in Houston. I didn't know the person well, only really in passing, but I knew immediately I wanted to be apart of this conversation. So I RSVP'd to the event. Then I did some research. There was not a lot to be found on the internet about birth equity outside of published journals and the March of Dimes web site. The stats that I did see were consistent with the stories I've heard and what I had experienced while pregnant.

(2) My role: At the event the March of Dimes staff physician shared her birth experience as an accomplished, licensed obstetrician-gynecologist, and black woman she experienced after having her first child. The care was subpar, she was refused treatment for her high blood pressure and her request to speak to her doctor of record was denied.

She checked herself out of the hospital, against medical advice to seek help from her primary care doctor. This was shocking, disheartening and demoralizing to her. A physician, was denied the standard of care she needed. So why would my friends that look like me, that looked like the physician, be treated any differently. Of course I was curious about what I could do to become a Birth Equity Champion and they made it really simple to get involved at different levels: Inform, Inspire and Fund. I chose to begin with a Birth Equity Reception, in an intimate setting, with women that are influencers and would be eager to get involved.

HISD Students Demonstrate Excellence at MLK Oratory Competition



The finalists are as follows (in photo from L to R): Aniyah Williams, Burrus Elementary, 5th Grade Ananya Cherkuri, Askew Elementary, 4th Grade David Ozuzu, Cornelius Elementary, 4th Grade Hanah Hamilton, Pleasantville Elementary, 5th Grade Gabrielle Marshall, Valley West Elementary, 5th Grade Kaydence Fletcher, James H. Law Elementary Jenny Teague, Sutton Elementary, 5th Grade Brandon Curbow, Crespo Elementary, 4th Grade Leo Serrano, Windsor Village Elementary, 4th Grade Symphony Stroud, Lockhart Elementary, 5th Grade Sean Gair, Thompson Elementary, 5th Grade Ayomide Lawrence, Blackshear Elementary, 4th Grade.

On Friday, Jan. 17, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Houston ISD elementary schools will vie for the winning title during the final round of the 24th Annual Foley & Lardner MLK Jr. Oratory Competition. In celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, the competition is designed to highlight the cultural diversity of the community while recognizing and encouraging the writing and public speaking skills

of elementary school students. Presented, hosted and sponsored Foley & Lardner, LLP, the event invites local students to present original three- to-five minute speeches addressing the topic: "What would Dr. King's vision be for America in 2020?" More than 180 students representing 23 Houston ISD schools participated in the in-school qualifying rounds from Oct. 14 to Oct. 25. One student from each school was selected to advance to

the semifinal round held Jan. 10. Of the 23 semifinalists, 12 have advanced to the final competition. Criteria for judging include delivery, stage presence, and content interpretation and memorization. Be a part of the conversation online with #FoleyMLKOratory. The final competition will be held Friday, January 17, 2020 at 10:00am at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church of Christ, 500 Clay Street in Houston, Texas 77002



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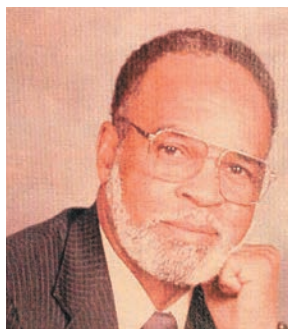
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Obituaries



Noris Foreman

Noris Foreman June 17, 1936- October 31, 2019 Noris Foreman, 83, a U. S. Air Force, Viet-Nam War Veteran, passed away on Monday, October 21, 2019, in League City, Texas. Born June 17, 1936 in Rusk, Texas, Mr. Foreman was the youngest of four children born to Ollie Foreman and Donnie Barnes. He grew up in Rusk where he attended George Bradford Elementary and Bradford High School where he enjoyed playing football. He was a graduate of the class of 1955. After graduation he joined the U. S. Airforce on July of 1955. on July 19, 1957, Noris married his childhood sweetheart, Lucille Denman Foreman. During their 35 year union, they were blessed with two sons, Eric and Keith; and a daughter Tracey. The Air Force family traveled throughout the United States and Europe. Mr. Foreman served a tour of duty in the Air Force in

Da Nang, Viet Nam from 1965 -66. After retirement from the Air Force in September 1976, the family returned to Texas and settled in Lamarque, Texas.

Mr. Foreman became an avid Lamarque Cougars season pass holder. He was employed by Monsanto Chemical Petroleum Company in 1976 until he retired from that Company 20 years later. After retirement for the second time, Noris worked several part time jobs keeping himself active. His last place of employment was bus driver for Texas City Independent School District. Mr Foreman was a member of St. John's Methodist Church where he enjoyed attending Sunday School and Church services. He is preceded in death by his father Ollie Foreman, mother Donnie Barnes Foreman, four brothers, L. E. Foreman; three sisters, Virginia Foreman Henderson, Mattie L. Foreman, and Paul L. Foreman.

He was a devoted father and grandfather who cherished time he spent with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

He leaves to cherish his memory three children: Eric Foreman, Keith Foreman, and Tracey Foreman Cambell;

ten grandchildren: Crystal Foreman, John Christopher Cambell, Jr., Matthew Foreman, Courtney (Kendric) Belfield, Brittany Cambell, Shelby Foreman, Brya Cambell, Bryan Cambell, Kirsten Foreman, and Kaecee Foreman; seventeen great-grandchildren, four sisters Luevenia Foreman Britton, Mary A. Foreman, Charlsie L. Foreman Session and Lela A. Foreman(Rev. Jerry) Leviston, one brother Frazier(Carolyn) foreman and a host of neices and nephews.

Services were held October 31, 2019 at Carnes Funeral Chapel in Texas City.



Floyd Ellis Franklin

Floyd Ellis Franklin was born in the Mount Haven Community of Jacksonville, Texas on August 23, 1942 to parents Mabel Waggoner Franklin and Grady Lewis Franklin. As a child he joined the family church, Shady Grove CME of Rusk, Texas. He grew up in Mount Haven graduating from Fred Douglass High School

in May 1961. He served three years in the United States Army and was honorably discharged in 1965. Floyd met and married Lula Ross Franklin in September 1966 where he gained a daughter Lisborn (Liz) Franklin. To this marriage one son, Floyd Anthony Franklin,, was born. The family moved to Dallas, and lived there several years before returning to Jacksonville.

Mr Franklin was employed with International Furniture Company of Jacksonville. Later he worked in Timber management and sales, farming and ranching. He was a fun loving person who had many friends. He loved his family and spent much time taking care of his brother Larry when his health failed and his mom as her health failed. He spoiled his children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren and they spoiled him. He enjoyed riding his four-wheeler around the ranch and he had a passion for fishing and horseback riding. He departed this life at home on Monday morning, December 2, 2019.

Floyd was preceded in death by his parents, and one brother Larry Franklin.

He leaves to cherish his memory one

son; Floyd Anthony(Terri) Franklin of Rusk, Texas: one daughter Liz Foreman of Jacksonville, Texas, grandchildren: Krystal (Marcus) Carter and Charnell Franklin, Darren Franklin, Eric Foreman, Amber (Josh) Baulkman, Brent Shepherd, Antigone Franklin, Melonie Foreman,; great grandchildren: Max, Madelyne, Maverick, Zaiden (Big Britches), Kell, Jeremiah, Joshua, Jazelle, Janiya, Ant-Mon, Zer-Steven, Trey, Shaun; two great-great grandchildren, two brothers Melvin (Elaine) Franklin of Kansas City Missouri and Elvin (Phyllis) Franklin of Dallas; neices, nephews and other relatives and friends.



Byron Thomas Bennett

Byron Thomas Bennett was born April 10, 1948 to O. B. and Doris Lee Walker Bennett in the Shady Grove of Rusk, Texas.

Continued page 10

Mr Bennett was a graduate of G. W. Bradford High School where he made a name for himself as a defensive lineman. After graduation his father wanted him to work for him hauling puckwood, Byron (Hootiepeck) decided to set out on a different path. When he turned down the job, he left home with a suitcase, five dollars and a challenge. He dad said to him, "I'ma give you these five dollars so when you go to Dallas and starve you can buy a bus ticket back home. He never asked his dad for anything else. He served in the US Army serving in Viet Nam where he became a highly decorated veteran. upon returning state-side he worked hard as he did in the Army earning his way from truck loader for KFC to a warehouse manager in just over a year. His co-workers said this made him the "Big Dog" and they began to call him "Big Dog" He soon got married and became a father to daughter Guinea and son Byron. He was awarded the four (4) Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, an Army Commendation Medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, The National Defense Service Medal, a Combat Infantryman Badge - 1st Award, the Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal with Device, an Expert Badge with Rifle Bar, the Sharpshooter Badge, the Marksman Badge, and the Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, but the bestowing of the name Paw-Paw is the award that may have meant the most to him. As life moved on Mr. Bennett married his second wife

Ronna Shelby Bennett. At Archer Daniels Midland, he built the small corn syrup plant from a one-trailer operation in the West End to a major distribution hub in a new location, overseeing the company he almost singlehandedly developed the systems, operations and success for Archer Daniels Midland (later known as South Texas Liquid Terminals) until he retired with more than 30 years service. He lived an expansive life enjoying family often bringing in cases of food and hosting family gatherings, and mentoring children who did not have a father. After retirement he and his wife enjoyed the good life, good food, good music, casino fun and the open highway.

Byron was preceded in death by his parents, his older brother John Reagan; and his sisters Billie (J. W. Carter), Melba Cotea Johnson, and Emma Lois (L. B.) Hodge. He is survived by his wife Ronna Shelby Anderson Bennett; his children, Guinea (Keith) Bennett-Price and Byron Bennett, II; sisters Carolyn (Travis) Matthews, and Melba Joyce (Willie) Bradley; grandchildren; Emir Price and Esau Price; stepchildren Andy Anderson (Shawna), Anthony Anderson, and Chester Anderson, Jr.; and step-grandchildren; Timothy Anderson, Jada Anderson, Reginal Anderson, FranShawn Fisher, Justin Anderson, Cortland Anderson, and London Anderson, neices, nephews, and special friends Craig Attaway, Ronnie Turner, Charlie Colston, JB Lamb and Michael James. Services were held Dec. 18, 2019 at Singing Hills Funeral Home Chapel Dallas, Texas. Rev Todd Atkins, Eulogist.



Annie Marie Cary Silmon

Annie Marie Cary Silmon was born to Penny Alice Cary and the late Chester Cary, Sr., September 4, 1954. On Sunday December 29, 2019 in Jacksonville, Texas she transitioned from earth to glory in a peaceful rest. At an early age she accepted Christ and united with St. Paul Baptist Church and later became a very active member of Greater New Zion Baptist Church where she served as Church Clerk, Choir member, Event Planner and Youth Coordinator. Ann met and married Robert Wade Silmon and to this union one child was born, Adrian Silmon. Ann enjoyed community service, sports, family and friends. She loved working outside in the yard and garden. She loved all people. She was employed at Cherokee County Health Department and later retired from Rusk State Hospital after many years. Among other things, Ann was an active member of the United Women of Strength of Jacksonville where she served as parliamentarian. Ann is survived by her mother, Mrs. Penny Cary of Jacksonville, a son Adrian Silmon (Lanisha) of

Jacksonville, brothers; Chester Cary, Jr and wife Paulette of Dallas, and Donald Ray Cary and wife Mary of San Diego California; sisters, Carol M. McGowan and Evelyn Robinson and husband Elbert Robinson of Jacksonville, Texas; grandsons; Aniyas Silmon, Major Silmon and MaCai Spenser all of Jacksonville, and Aiden Silmon of Athens, Texas; neices Paula Cary, Leticia McGowan, Chandra Robinson, Jasmine Robinson, Dr. Shayla Robinson, Dr. Kayla Robinson, Tameika Robinson and Taylor Robinson, Nephews; Vincent Cary, Michael Robinson and Joshua Robinson; great nephews; Christian Cary, Sterling Robinson and Sean Robinson; great neice Whitley Robinson; sisters-in-law, Lavern Henry, Reecca Taylor and Patricia Silmon, a host of other relatives and friends. The service was held on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 12:00 noon at Kingdom Christian Center, Jacksonville where Pastor Charlvn Doty and Co-Pastor Loretta Doty were in charge with Reverend Claudell Anderson as Master of Ceremony and Dr. Charles Walls as Eulogist. Services were under the direction of Lott's Mortuary Dallas, Texas with local assistance given by McGowan Funeral Home of Jacksonville.

Rusk Little Dribble games begin Saturday Jan. 25th

AAP Policy on Racism Raises the Bar

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believing that anxiety. What if there is a plaque on the pediatrician's wall that states, human ancestry of all people and disavow and repudiate the idea of a hierarchy of human value. We value all people equally here and are working to achieve health equity by eliminating racism and other forms of exclusion and oppression."

Because of the AAP, a significant transformation is within reach. # # # Dr. Gail C. Christopher, the former Senior Advisor and Vice President of the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, is the Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity and founder of the Rx Racial Healing movement. Follow Dr. Christopher on Twitter @DrGCCChristopher For media interviews, contact: Michael Frisby at mike@frisbyassociates.com or 202-625-4328

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