Vol XXVIII No. 7

MAY 3, 2022

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MAY 13, 2022

Clayson

## Senate confirms Ketanji Brown Jackson to Supreme Court, making her the first Black woman to serve as a justice

**KEY POINTS** 

The Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, maki ng her the first Black woman to serve on the top U.S. court.

she read out the vote result, which drew a swell of applause and cheering from the Senate floor.

Jackson will join a court that has grown sub-

to momentarily choke up with emotion as have tried to wield Jackson's public-defender

> Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., was criticized for remarking Tuesday on the Senate floor that while former Justice Robert Jackson "left

experience against her by accusing her of

sympathizing with the views or actions of

some of her past clients, including detainees at the Guantanamo Bay military prison in

MAY 1-15 2022

the Supreme Court to go to Nuremberg and prosecute the case against the Nazis ... this Judge Jackson might have gone there to defend them."

Jackson fielded that criticism and others during more than 23 hours of questioning over two grueling days of confirmation hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee last month.

While her qualifications and temperament were rarely questioned, Republicans tore into Jackson's judicial record, arguing that her rulings show a willingness to legislate from the bench. They also focused intently on her sentencing record in a handful of child-pornography cases, accusing her of doling out light punishments to those offenders.

Fact-checkers have disputed that characterization, and Democratic committee members pushed back aggressively against the Republicans' criticisms.

Members of the American Bar Association, which unanimously awarded Jackson its top rating of "Well Qualified," also defended Jackson's record during her confirmation hearings.

Despite her endorsements, Republicans including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell have framed Jackson as a fellow travelers of far-left politics.

But after her confirmation hearings, Jackson picked up the support of centrist Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Mitt Romney of Utah.

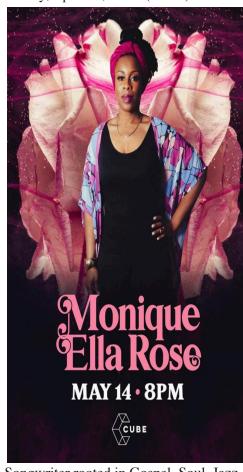
"While I do not expect to agree with every decision she may make on the Court, I believe that she more than meets the standard of excellence and integrity," Romney said when he announced his support Monday.

Lansing Symphony Orchestra "BRAHS SYMPHONY NO 2" Cobb Great Hall for Ticket

June 7-12, 2022 "Ain't To Proud: The Life and Times of the Temptations" Great Cobb Hall For Ticket information Call 1-800-WHARTON



Curren\$y at the 420 Festival at Addo Park Lansing Michigan on Saturday, April 23, 2022. (above)



Songwriter rooted in Gospel, Soul, Jazz and R&B smooth sounds that uplift. (above) Live from Margrove: for tickets contact: dso.org

Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 3711 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201



The 53-47 final vote tally showed bipartisan support for Jackson, with three Republicans joining all Democrats to elevate the 51-year-old federal judge to a lifetime appointment.

- Jackson is President Joe Biden's first Supreme Court nominee. She will replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who was confirmed to the bench in 1994.
- The Senate on Thursday confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court, making her the 116th justice — and the first Black woman — to serve on the top U.S. court.
- The 53-47 final vote tally showed bipartisan support for Jackson, with three Republicans joining all Democrats to elevate the 51-year-old federal judge to a lifetime appointment on the high court.
- "This is a great moment for Judge Jackson, but it is a greater moment for America as we rise to a more perfect union," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said before the vote.
- Jackson is President Joe Biden's first Supreme Court nominee. She will replace retiring Justice Stephen Breyer, 83, who was confirmed to the bench in 1994.

Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman ever to hold that title, presided over the vote to confirm Jackson. Harris appeared stantially more conservative following the appointment of three of former President Donald Trump's nominees. Her addition will maintain the size of the court's liberal wing, which is outnumbered 6-3 by the conservative bloc.

Just five women — Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Amy Coney Barrett — have served on the Supreme Court. Only two Black men, Thurgood Marshall and Clarence Thomas, have ever been appointed to the bench. No Black women have previously sat on the high court.

"Judge Jackson's confirmation was a historic moment for our nation," Biden said in a tweet after the vote. "We've taken another step toward making our highest court reflect the diversity of America. She will be an incredible Justice, and I was honored to share this moment with her."

Jackson is also set to become the first Supreme Court justice to have served as a public defender. Democrats have touted that experience as more evidence that Jackson will bring fresh perspective to the historically homogeneous court.

Public defenders are assigned to defend people in criminal cases who may otherwise be unable to hire their own counsel, a constitutional right. Republicans, however,

### Lansing City Clerk's South Washington Election Unit open for an Additional 10 Hours the Last Weekend before Lansing School Bond Election

Lansing - Lansing City Voters will have an additional 10 hours beyond regular office hours to vote-in person and/or register to vote at the South Washington Election Unit before the May 3rd Lansing School District Bond Election.

Located at 2500 S. Washington, the Clerk's Election Unit offers free parking, a 24-hour secure drop box, and is conveniently located on CATA Route #2. The most convenient entrance to the Election Unit is in the back of the office building. Voting will be available at the Election Unit before Election Day on:

Saturday, April 30th 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sunday, May 1st Noon -4 p.m. Monday May 2nd 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.Walk-in absentee voting is also available at the Clerk's City Hall Office, located on the 9th floor of City Hall at 124 W. Michigan Avenue, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Monday, May 2nd for voting in person only. As of Noon on April 26th, the Clerk's Office

has issued 12,577 absentee ballots for the

Special Election. 67% of these ballots have

been returned, but there are still 4,177 ballots to be returned. Ballots need to be received via mail, drop box, or dropped off at either Clerk's Office locations by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

Therefore, voters are encouraged to drop off their ballot at one of the 15 Drop Boxes located throughout the city at every fire station, community center and more. To find an election drop box near you, visit https:// lansingvotes.com/voting/.

There are two exceptions in Michigan election law which restrict early voting. On the day before Election Day, no ballots can be provided after 4 p.m., except in an emergency situation. Also on Election Day, absentee ballots can only be given to people registering to vote on Election Day.

For those who chose to vote in the precinct on Election Day, the polls will be open May 3rd, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Voters who are unsure of their voting site can visit https://lansingvotes.com or call the Lansing City Clerk at 517-483-4131.

Voters who received a ballot at their home

but wish to vote at the polls can surrender their ballot at the precinct and receive a new ballot. If you lost or didn't receive your ballot in time, you are still able to go to the polls to vote. Voters are encouraged to follow safety guideline recommendations. Precincts will have sanitizer, masks and will be following protocols that were developed with the expert support of the Ingham County Health Department, State of Michigan Health Department, and the Centers for Disease Control.

There is no longer a deadline for voter registration. Through Election Day, a citizen can come to either location of the Clerk's Office with proof of residency, register, and vote all in one visit. Alternatively, a citizen may take their ballot with them or vote in their precinct; this option depends on which day they come in, per state law and the State constitution Voters who have any questions about voting can visit 1 https://lansingvotes. com or call the Lansing City Clerk at 517-483-4131.







Dee Freeman

NEW BOOK RELEASE: CONVERSATIONS IN THE COLOUR OF LIFE

# POETREE IN MOTION

# ODE: TO THE FRONT LINE

Front line...You're our defense against this silent, invisible enemy

Front line... Your unselfish gifts are the current spine of this country

True Honorable leaders! You step out...

Willingly Leaping out of your own comfort zone

True selfless warriors! You

True selfless warriors! You step out...

Jumping into this horrific challenge, yet know...you're not alone

You BRAVE souls, your bravery influence us all to do what we can

To do generously...our small and meager parts

You brave souls, encourage us to extend, EXTEND, though not tangible

But enduring love from the depths of our hearts

I SALUTE you...Your Bravery, your courageousness Your selflessness, your tirelessness!

I SALUTE you as you GIVE... For your caring and comfort are only surpassed by your kindness

You are the heroes of the hour! You are the sheroes with boundless power!

The gifts you give speaks volumes about you
The charity you exemplify today is even admirable, too!
I send my heartfelt thanks to each of you! THANK YOU!
I send my heart felt thanks to each and everyone of you!
THANK YOU!

So, first responders: Doctors, Nurses, medical staff, clerks, attendants!

First responders: Policemen, Firemen, workers of all kinds! Thank you!

Front line...You know who you are and what you're doing...
During these unusual and scary times...THANK YOU!

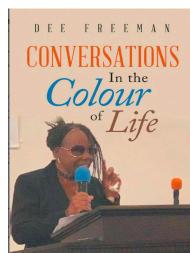
My hope and prayer is that together each of us will look back

Someday soon...WE will look back... Yes me and you!
Smiling and giving thanks to our creator

Knowing we were thoroughly BLESSED!

For we ALL made it through!

Thanks to YOU, we will get through this TOGETHER!



Dee's pure candor and truthful expressions bypasses frivolity and gets right down to the real deal. She lays it out in an undeniable way...hanging it all out on the line, hoping it dries to the nice crisp and clean laundry we all crave, but knowing some of the dirt doesn't readily wash out. That's the stuff still needing more scrubbing and time to air.

Yet some stains just won't let go, so Dee's "Conversations" opens options and inspires creative juices so we understand this simple fact ...that we all need to vent, forgive ourselves and others...then move the heck on. Actually you may just toss out much of the grime and dirt in the wash water..so to speak!! Yeah!! You got it! Good talk!

Come join the CONVERSA-TION with Dee Freeman's new book, hot off the press.. Check out the Kindle preview or paperback available now on Amazon.com. For autographed copies, please connect with Dee at 517.214-0200 or

deedkfreeman@yahoo.com \$14 + \$3. shpg Join in and get your copy TODAY!



Pastor/Chaplain Pamelajune (Pj) Anderson, DMin. Soul II Soul Spiritual Fitness Couch Lt. Commander (RET) US Navy Chaplain Corps Certified Peer Support Specialist



BE STILL AND YOUR SOUL WILL SPEAK

"Anyone who does not love does not know God because God is love." I John 4:8 The Voice



Dearest of All, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, humanity's quest for love seems to go around in circles, skipping from person to person, idea to idea, thing to thing, and thang to thang. It is common to hear the saying

"looking for love in all the wrong places." It begs the question, "What are the wrong places?" I submit that there is only one place to find Love with a capital L.

Sometimes, I believe we are taught to put the cart before the horse.

We are taught that to love oneself is selfish, narcissistic, thoughtless, egotistical, selfabsorbing, and vain. Indeed, we have seen these descriptive images exhibited in the likes of international and national terrorists. Many have concluded that such personalities are soulless. What's peculiar is that God's Love is radically inclusive. When they come to themselves, the Holy Spirit could draw them by and to God's unconditional Love.

Let's consider the meaning of Agape Love as described in I Corinthians 13.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self.

Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut.

Doesn't have a swelled head, Doesn't force itself on others,

Isn't always "me first," Doesn't fly off the handle,

Doesn't keep score of the sins of others, Doesn't revel when others grovel,

Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, **Puts up with anything**,

Trusts God always Always looks for the best, Never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

I Corinthians 13 paints a picture of Agape (unconditional) Love. Are we capable of loving God, self, and neighbor unconditionally? If we were taught from the cradle that Agape Love is God's unconditional acceptance of who "I am." we would mature with an improved viewpoint of God's nature and a better witness of God from within our souls.

I submit that "we can only care for others to the degree we care for ourselves." Also, Agape Love does not put you with anything. These two references to love may be a misprint. We'll continue with First John 4:8 – Getting to Know God to Love God.

# **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** The 2022 Lansing

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Interfaith/Ecumenical Virtual Prayer/Praise & Day of Giving Program FEBRUARY 27 TO APRIL 23

The Dr. Eva L. Evans Juneteenth Essay & Scholarship Competition SATURDAY, JUNE 11

The Commemorative Ballgame/Tribute to the Negro Leagues

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

The Capital City Kick-Off Ceremony/Essay Contest & Scholarship Awards SATURDAY, JUNE 18

African American Parade & Juneteenth Freedom Festival SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Juneteenth Day Recognition





LansingJuneteenthCelebration.Org Info@LansingJuneteenthCelebration.Org











Chris Swope Lansing City Clerk

**Immediate Release** April 26, 2022

**Media Contact:** Chris Swope 517-230-1566

Lansing City Clerk's South Washington Election Unit open for an Additional 10 Hours the Last Weekend before Lansing School **Bond Election** 

Lansing – Lansing City Voters will have an additional 10 hours beyond regular office hours to vote-in person and/or register to vote at the South Washington Election Unit before the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Lansing School District Bond Election.

Located at 2500 S. Washington, the Clerk's Election Unit offers free parking, a 24-hour secure drop box, and is conveniently located on CATA Route #2. The most convenient entrance to the Election Unit is in the back of the office building. Voting will be available at the Election Unit before Election Day on:

> Saturday, April 30th Sunday, May 1st Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup>

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Noon – 4 p.m. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Walk-in absentee voting is also available at the Clerk's City Hall Office, located on the 9th floor of City Hall at 124 W. Michigan Avenue, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Monday, May 2nd for voting in person only.

As of Noon on April 26th, the Clerk's Office has issued 12,577 absentee ballots for the Special Election. 67% of these ballots have been returned, but there are still 4,177 ballots to be returned. Ballots need to be received via mail, drop box, or dropped off at either Clerk's Office locations by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.

Therefore, voters are encouraged to drop off their ballot at one of the 15 Drop Boxes located throughout the city at every fire station, community center and more. To find an election drop box near you, visit <a href="https://lansingvotes.com/voting/">https://lansingvotes.com/voting/</a>.



**Birthdays in MAY**Ms. Angela Zamora celebrates her birthday on May 1st with family and friends.

Ms. Tabitha Brown celebrates her 43rd birthday on May 1st, with her Sisters, new and old Friends. "I thank GOD for continuing to bless me and my family.

Mr. Ron Vermillion celebrate his birthday on May 1st, missing his twin brother, the late Donnie V.; enjoying each other, as they've done since day one, "Together-Donnie and Ronnie V." with friends and family! Ms. Arie Carroll had a "Happy Birthday" on May 1st, with friends and family. She says, "Enjoy the Arie experience... helping people to reach their full potential!"

Ms. Leigh Anne Coins celebrated, birthday 40, on May 1st, with friends saying, "Happy Birthday to Me!" Ms. Rashonda Ali, on May 2nd, celebrated her 31st birthday, with her family and friends. "We love you!!!"

Ms. Breanna DeMyers celebrated her 30th birthday on May 2nd. "Happy Birthday; we all love you!" Dad.

Ms. Andrea Dameron celebrates her 40th birthday on May 2nd, with friends.

Ms. Danielle Castillo celebrates her 32nd birthday on May 3rd with her husband Tori and her son Brendin. Ms. Kathryn Spencer Dungy celebrates her birthday on May 3rd.

Ms. Maribel "Mari" Odilia Tyler celebrates her birthday on May 3rd, with her loving family.

Mr. Gerry Shakar celebrated his 40th birthday on May 3rd, thanking GOD for another birthday! Ms. Kenya Hattaway celebrates her 39th birthday on May 4th.

Mr. Bruce Sturgis-Ramsay celebrates his 57th birthday on May 4th.

Miss Cortana celebrates her 14th birthday on May 4th, with family and friends. "Happy Birthday Baby!" Love always, Mom

Mr. Caden Jones celebrates his 17th birthday on May 5th, with family and friends. His Mom says, "We love you very much!"

Ms. Janice Smith, in her remembrance, celebrated her birthday on May 5th.

Ms. Tammy Gonzales celebrates her birthday on May 5th.

Ms. Janice Hill celebrates her birthday on May 6th.

Ms. Shavontai Henry celebrates her birthday on May 6th.

Mrs. Kimberly Whitfield celebrates her 53rd birthday on May 7th, with her loving husband and daughter. Mr. Michael Thomas Jr. celebrates his birthday on May 7th.

Ms. Lillian Michelle Boles: to her remembrance on May 7th, we celebrate her 42 years of Life with us. She enjoyed the celebration of her life, with family and friends.

Ms. Karen Saddler celebrates her birthday May 7th, she said "thank you LORD for this day!"

Mr. Charles Andrews, deceased: we celebrates his 61 years on May 8th. GOD bless family and friends.

Mr. Rickey Jackson celebrates his 38th birthday on May 8th with family and friends. Mrs. Jill Foorman turns 58 years young on May 8th, celebrating with her family and friends.

Mr. Ivan Civils, in his memory, we celebrate his birth on May 8th, with friends and family.

Master Daytin Allen Scott Wilson celebrates his 10th birthday on May 9th. Love Mom, Dad and your Grannies... Angie Cooper and Jennifer Wilson

Mrs. Deana Newman celebrates her birthday May 9th, with her loving husband, David, who says, "She is my rock and my life!"

Ms. Keisha Giles celebrates her 45th birthday on May 9th." Happy Birthday" from all her family and friends.

Ms. Ann (D. J. Ann) celebrates her birthday on May 9th, with family and friends.

Ms. Jessica Lynn Patterson celebrates her 29th birthday on May 9th. "Mommy loves and is very proud of you, my special young lady. Happy Birthday!

Ms. Jennifer Taylor celebrates her birthday on May 9th, exclaiming, "Let's Party!"

Mr. David (Rabbit) Garcia celebrates his birthday on May 10th, with family and friends.

Mr. Carlton McConnell celebrates his birthday on May 10th. Ms. Jazmine Patterson celebrates her 38th birthday on May 10th.

Ms. Clarissa McClain celebrates her 30th birthday on May 11th, Happy Birthday! I will greet this day with

love in my heart, God Bless; Mother, love you!!! Ms. Barb Garcia celebrates her birthday on May 11th.

Mr. Blaine Buckingham celebrates his birthday on May 11th.

A'Tien Colbert enjoyed a birthday on May 11th.

Ms. Amber Shinn celebrates her birthday on May 11th. "Best day ever!" Ms. Kristie Zimmerman celebrated her birth on May 11th.

Ms. Mary Alvarado celebrates her 38th birthday on May 12th, with friends and family. Ms. Moét Rodriguez celebrates her birthday on May 14th, with friends.

Ms. Dawn Correa celebrates her 37th birthday on May 14th, with her husband, Robert and their son;

preparing for their anniversary on May 17th. Master Carter Lamb celebrates his 13th birthday on May 15th. "Happy birthday little man, Mommy loves

Ms. Madison Jones celebrates her birthday on May 15th. Mr. Ricky Vasquez celebrates his 39th birthday on May 15th, with his loving wife by his side.

Mr. Mike "Dog" Ranshaw celebrates his 46th birthday on May 15th, with family and friends. Ms. Samatra Denson celebrates her 45th birthday on May 16th. She says, "I'm loving life!"

Ms. Sha Taraywe McKinley celebrates her 30th birthday on May 18th.

Mr. Kurt Brumbaugh celebrates his 48th birthday on May 18th.

Ms. Jina Cashey celebrates her 45th birthday on May 18th. "Happy Birthday" from Joyce. Mr. Kris Pratt celebrates his birthday on May 19th. He says "I thank GOD and myself for being so awe-

Ms. Aaliyah Miller celebrates her 16th birthday on May 19th, with family and friends.

Mr. Nigel Moore enjoys his birthday on May 19th.

Ms. Gwendolyn Gail Rouse celebrates her birthday on May 19th! Ms. Nancy Berry-Beck celebrates her birthday on May 19th.

Mr. Ray Lopez celebrates his 70th birthday May 19th. Happy Birthday Ray

Mr. Drevaughn Croskey celebrates his 27th birthday May 19th. "My beloved son" Love momma Mr. Isaac Verser celebrates his birthday on May 20th, with family and friends.

Mr. Carl R. Herring celebrates his birthday on May 21st, with his loving family.

Mr. Jay A. Townsley Sr. with wife and family, celebrates his birthday on May 21st. Mr. AJ Brown celebrates his birthday May 21st, "Happy birthday" from your brother and your favorite sister

Ms. Brianna and Ms. Brooklyn Aguilar celebrate their 23rd birthday on May 22nd, with family and friends.

Ms. Angela Redemsky celebrates her birthday on May 22nd, with family and friends.

Ms. Celia Henderson celebrates her birthday on May 23rd. Ms. Tara Moore will celebrate her birthday on May 23rd.

Mr. James "Jet" Davis celebrates his birthday on May 23rd.

Ms. Rose Henderson celebrates her birthday on May 23rd.

Ms. Laraine Walton celebrated her birthday on May 23rd.

Mr. Robert Brown Sr., deceased, was born on May 23rd. A great Dad who taught me the value of our Mother, who taught us to LOVE, thus learning how to LIVE.

Mr. Melvin S. McWilliams celebrates his birthday on May 24th.

Mr. Cullen Dubose II, in memory we celebrate his birth on May 25th. Mr. Barry Williams celebrates his birth on May 26th.

Mrs. Yvonne Young McConnell celebrates her birthday on May 26th. Mr. Blake Buckingham celebrates his birthday on May 26th.

Mr. Claude Browne celebrates his 100th birthday on May 27th, with his

Trinity A.M.E. Church family.

Master Rolando R. Ruiz III celebrates his 13th birthday on May 28th, with family and friends. "Mom- Cece, Dad-Rolando Jr. and Nana love you very much!"

Greer Dodd celebrates a birthday on May 28th.

Mr. André Collins-Riddle celebrates his birthday on May 29th. Mr. John Wallick II celebrates his birthday on May 31st.

Master Jacob Thomas Brown celebrates his 12th birthday in May with family and friends. "Happy birthday Little Man!!!" Love, Mommy and Daddy!!!

### \*Anniversaries

Mr. Johnathon Short and Mrs. Megan Adrienne Short were married on May 2nd, 2011, celebrating 11 beautiful years together!

Mr. David and Mrs. Deana Newman will celebrate their 13th wedding anniversary on May 27th.

### \*Announcements

Face book Page: www.facebook.com/mrpartycserv Celebration Gram: Your special message delivered by: Mr. Party, The Ambassador of Celebration!!!

### Please let us know if you have anyone to celebrate

Please send us the information about you, your family or friends celebrating the Events of Life, by email: mrpartycserv@aol.com, or call our office at 1-517-391-4849.

Lansing Community College congratulates Trustee Angela Mathews and Benita Duncan on their recent elections at the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress

Trustee Mathews was elected Vice-Chair of the African American Community College Trustees Association (AACCTA). The AACCTA is a constituency group of the ACCT and serves as an organization committed to assessing the cumulative effects of higher education policy on African American students, faculty and staff.

Ms. Duncan was elected as President of The Professional Board Staff Network (PBSN). She becomes the first African American to ascend to the position of President for the Executive Committee of the ACCT PBSN. The PBSN is a national level resource for those who support governing boards or presidents of community colleges.



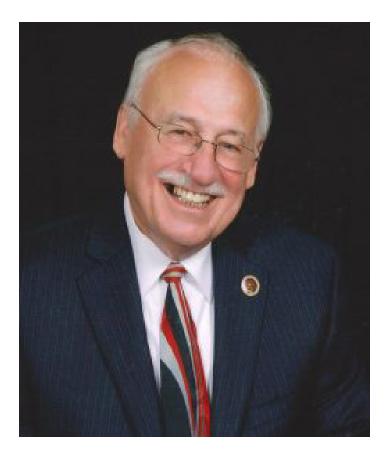


**Trustee Angela Mathews**Vice-Chair LCC Board of Trustees



Benita Duncan
Executive Assistant and Liaison
to LCC Board of Trustees

# Former Lansing mayor Tony Benavides, dead at 84, Remembered for those he Helped



Former Mayor Tony Benavides

LANSING — Lansing's first Latino mayor, Antonio "Tony" Benavides, died Sunday following a battle with illness. He was 84. A graduate of Sexton High School and Michigan State University, Benavides came from a family of farmers in Comales, Mexico and settled in the U.S. at 15. He worked as a migrant laborer around Stockbridge while earning his high school diploma and learning English, graduating at age 20. Benavides became executive director of the Cristo Rey Community Center in 1969, where he worked for 33 years. He was elected to Lansing City Council

in 1981 and appointed Lansing mayor in 2003, filling David Hollister's seat after he left for a job with former Gov. Jennifer Granholm's administration.

Voters picked Benavides to finish the term in a special election later that year. He served through 2005, prioritizing making the city's neighborhoods stronger.

He also volunteered at Hospice of Lansing and Citizens Alliance on Prisons & Public Spending.

"That's why I am the way I am and who I am because of the example set for us — serve your community and become an activist — because of (Benavides)," said Lorenzo Lopez, a family

left: Tony Benavides right: former Govenor Jennifer Granholm

friend and community organizer.



In a 2008 Lansing State Journal article, Ygnacio Bermudez of St. Johns described Benavides as Lansing's unofficial ombudsman. He was known for helping those in need with issues like immigration and legal aid, and welcomed people to knock on his door or call him at home.

"He was able to rise above all of that and to demonstrate to the world, people are people and you need to service people, it didn't matter the background," Lopez said. "I called it the American journey."

Benavides is survived by his wife, Carmen; four children Sandy, Carmen, Ricardo and Ed; and seven grandchildren.

Support local journalism and get unlimited digital access! Subscribe for only \$1 for six months! Contact reporter Krystal Nurse at (517) 267-1344 or knurse@lsj.com. Follow her on Twitter @KrystalRNurse.

This article originally appeared on Lansing State Journal: Tony Benavides, Lansing's first Latino mayor, dead at 84

Krystal Nurse, Lansing State Journal

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