

Celebrating The Black Vote

By Rhoda McKinney
NNPA National Correspondent

Spirits soared high November 6, as the Nation's black leadership gathered on Capitol Hill to glory in the Democratic gains of the Senate and to analyze the black vote, mainly in the South, the margin of victory in those elections and other targeted races throughout the country.

According to Eddie Williams, executive director of the Joint Center for Political Studies and Linda Williams, senior political analyst for JCPS, the black vote was decisive in electing five new Democratic Senators, Richard Shelby (Ala.) Wyche Fowler (Ga.), Robert Graham (Fl.), Terry Sanford (N.C.), John Breaux (La.) and one incumbent Alan Cranston (Cal.).

The National Black Leadership Roundtable, an organization comprised of 300 black civic associations and the network vehicle of the Congressional Black Congress claims victory in the Republican Senate turnover and the election of three black freshmen Congressmen.

D.C. Del. Walter E. Fauntroy, president of the NBLR, said NBLR had completed their first two black political empowerment goals; electing three additional members of CBC, through NBLR had hoped for five and to impact at least 10 Democratic Senatorial races. Six was the outcome. The third goal, yet to be complete, was electing Rep. Charles Rangel (N.Y.), 16-year veteran of the House, as the first black Majority Whip.

Attorney Mike Espy, the first black to be elected to the House of Representatives from Mississippi since Reconstruction, won by the narrow margin of 52 percent

against a two-term incumbent, and will replace Rep. Alan Wheat (Mo.) as the youngest member of the CBC. John Lewis, a former Atlanta city councilman won by an easy 75 percent, giving Georgia their first black member of Congress in 10 years. Rev. Floyd Flake, of the 6th Congressional District in New York ousted another black and the newest member of CBC, Alan Waldon (N.Y.).

Black candidates, Faye Williams, 8th Congressional District in Louisiana and Bobby Scott, 1st Congressional District in Virginia lost their bids to the House by a narrow margin.

Espy said his Mississippi constituents "Hungred for new leadership and thirsted for new representation." He told the assembled press, his goal was to turn out the vote for the future and that CBC would never regret sending the new Representatives to Congress.

The NBLR's strategy for electing the new officials was to mobilize the member organizations to raise money and join work campaigns, traveling to the ten targeted states, Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

C. Delores Tucker, president of the Democratic National Committee Black Caucus, had said in a previous NBLR press conference, "In these states we can make a difference... We didn't select South Dakota because we cannot make a difference."

Though various polls indicated the black vote was decisive in key races and overwhelmingly Democratic, 90 percent, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson said, "We feel a sense of joy and delight that the Republican Party and the

Police Probing Stabbing Death

North Las Vegas police are investigating a Thursday morning stabbing death of a North Las Vegas woman.

spirit of Reagan has been defeated," but there needs to be a "reconstruction of the Democratic party to assure our victory in 88."

Joanie Marie Gaiter, 26, of 1509 W. Cartier Ave. was found on a couch in the living room of the residence at about 8 a.m., police said.

A weapon believed to be used in the stabbing was found at the scene, police said. The body was discovered by Gaiter's sister.

10
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