

ESTHER GRACE McGLOTHEN, WESTSIDE MUSIC LEGEND HONORED



(Left to Right) Shakir Fitzgerald, Grace McGlothen and Kyna Krause

by H.P. "Fitz" Fitzgerald
During the past two years we profiled the positive roles of Westside African Americans in our articles entitled "Profiles of Westside School Alumni," "Westside African-American Immigrants," and "Westside African-American Legends" in the SENTINEL-VOICE newspaper.

Esther Grace McGlothen, who was honored at a retirement ceremony at the Jo Mackey Sixth Grade Center, in North Las

Vegas recently, is all of these, plus an African-American music legend and pioneer in the Westside. More than 350 well-wishers, school officials, friends and former students attended the affair that was coordinated by Jeffrietta Thompson, assisted by Telma Brown, Ruth Hicks, Mary Rose/James and Vi Oscar.

Presentations were made by Jo Mackey Principal Sylvia Springer and the school's first princi-

pal. They were assisted by Shakir Fitzgerald and Kyna Krause. U.S. Senator Richard Bryant and wife Bonnie were present and presented Grace with a letter of commendation. Eva Simmons who presented a gift to the honoree.

Berta Norwood, Ruth Hicks and Telma Brown, school faculty members, presented gifts, and Grace Mitchell gave McGlothen a money tree. Vi Oscar, school office manager,

gave Grace a photo album, and Grace's sons "Tony" and "Gilly" played and sang their mother's favorite songs.

Bobbie Troutman was the mistress of ceremony, and music and entertainment was provided by Johnetta Watkins, Margaret Fowler, Herbert Freeman, and the Meister Singers, directed by Kathleen Wilson.

Jennifer Harrison, Marion Moxley, Mary Flores and Annie Elliott donated corsages, cen-

terpieces and flowers for the affair.

The children participating on the program, Shakir Fitzgerald and Kyna Krause were looking for role models. Kyna would like to become a pediatrician, a fashion designer or a radio television personality.

Shakir, who has already won several art and poster contests at his school, First Good Shepherd Lutheran School, plans to pursue a career as a commer-

cial artist or an architectural engineer. Kyna is a student at the Jo Mackey Sixth Grade Center.

Legendary Grace McGlothen's music career extended from the Panama Canal Zone through the states of Texas, California, and finally, Nevada. Grace is an ideal role model, not only for Shakir Fitzgerald and Kyna Krause, but any young boy or girl in the Clark County community.



Faye Williams, Associate Administrator WLV Library, Larry Weekly, Community Affairs director, KCEP Radio, Congressman Jim Bilbray, Diana Speight, EOB Case manager, and Michael Pawlak, Project Home Director, EOB, stand before the "Tree of Hope" at the West Las Vegas Library.

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