

Evers-Williams receives NAACP medal

Special to Sentinel-Voice
Coretta Scott King presented the NAACP's 83rd Spingarn award to Myrlie Evers-Williams July 16 during the civil rights organization's convention in Atlanta.

First awarded in 1914, the Spingarn medal is considered the highest honor in the civil rights arena.

Evers-Williams had stepped to the podium for the honor once before: in 1963, she accepted a posthumous Spingarn award on behalf of her slain husband Medgar Evers. This is the first time the medal has gone to two members of the same family.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this medal than Myrlie Evers-Williams," said Kweisi Mfume, president and CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Her dedication to the cause of equal opportunity is

unparalleled in our community."

Evers-Williams authored the book "For Us, the Living," published in 1967, in which she described the life of her late husband and chronicled the civil rights struggle of the '50s and '60s in Mississippi. In 1983 the PBS series "American Playhouse" presented a 90-minute treatment of the book, which was recently released in paperback by the University of Mississippi Press.

Evers-Williams also anchored the HBO production "Southern Justice: the Murder of Medgar Evers," and her struggle for justice was the subject of the Rob Reiner film "Ghosts of Mississippi."

As a contributing editor of *Ladies' Home Journal*, the honoree helped cover the Vietnam peace talks in Paris. Her literary achievements also include many widely



EVERS-WILLIAMS

acclaimed articles and she lectures extensively for civil rights groups, women's organizations, social groups and universities.

In February of 1995, Evers-Williams was elected chairwoman of the NAACP, the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group. Winning by one vote, she set about restoring the fiscal and social strength of an organization riddled by financial mismanagement and scandal.

A year later, the 64-member board of directors unanimously re-elected her to a second term.

Since handing over the position to Julian Bond earlier this year, she has become Chairman Emeritus of the NAACP.

Bond said of his predecessor: "Myrlie Evers-Williams was the right person at the right time to bring integrity, accountability and stability back to this historic organization."

The Spingarn award recognizes the African-American with "the highest or noblest achievement during the preceding year or years."

Past winners include W.E.B. DuBois, A. Philip Randolph, Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King Jr., Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Rosa Parks, Lena Horne, Bill Cosby, Jesse Jackson, Colin Powell, Barbara Jordan and Maya Angelou.

Klan head says he never advocated violence

Special to Sentinel-Voice
MANNING, S.C. — A Ku Klux Klan leader testified Tuesday he never advocated violence against blacks that may have incited others to burn a predominantly black church in 1995.

"I said it before and I say it now. I have never told anyone to go out there and fight blacks," Horace King, the 65-year-old grand dragon of the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in South Carolina,

testified Tuesday. King is being sued by the Macedonia Baptist Church which contends he incited others to burn the church on June 21, 1995.

Four other men have been convicted on federal charges in connection with the arson. King and his lawyer contend the men acted on their own.

The church's lawyer, Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center, showed a videotape of King at a Klan

rally near the church about two weeks before the fire.

"This is a white man's country and if the niggers don't like it, put them on a rowboat and send them back to Africa," King said then.

Another tape showed King at a Klan march in Washington, D.C.

"If we had this garbage in South Carolina, we would burn the bastards out or run them out of town," he said in a reference to blacks.

King insisted he never incited violence.

"I have changed. I have changed a lot," King said. He also denied telling another Klansman that he should go out and beat blacks.

The trial is expected to last about a week.

President Clinton endorses bill preserving Underground Railroad

Special to Sentinel-Voice
WASHINGTON — President Clinton signed into law Tuesday a bill that will help preserve the slave escape route known as the Underground Railroad.

The law authorizes the National Park Service to spend \$500,000 a year to link the sites of the Underground Railroad, produce educational materials and enter partnerships to commemorate the 19th century escape route.

The bill was sponsored by Reps. Bob Portman (R-Ohio), and Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), in the House; and by Sens. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Ill.), and Mike DeWine (R-Ohio), in the Senate.

"Today is a proud moment in the history of the Congress and this nation," said Stokes, the former head of the Congressional Black Caucus. "We can now begin the exciting task of officially documenting the historical significance of the Underground Railroad."

"This law will help us to preserve and commemorate the



MOSELEY-BRAUN

important, but often overlooked, history of the Underground Railroad," said Portman, whose great-great-grandparents were Quakers and abolitionists who lived in a farmhouse near West Milton, Ohio, that harbored freedom-seeking slaves.

Moseley-Braun said the new network will be significant not just for blacks, but for all Americans. "It really is something that all Americans can take real pride in because it celebrates the best of our history," she said. DeWine said the law will help future generations relive the experience of escaping slaves.

"This is a proud moment for Ohioans and other Americans who risked their lives to help one another," he said. A 1995 park service survey documented nearly 400 sites associated with the Underground Railroad in 29 states, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean islands. But it also found that many were in danger of being lost or destroyed.

Rider

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walking back to their cars after checking out another call, approached the two cars, expecting to find young people drinking or using drugs. That's when one of the deputies peered into one of the cars and saw Rider allegedly preparing to smoke the marijuana. The other four people in the cars were not cited or searched, and no other drugs were seized.

Sorority hosting international meeting

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. will be celebrating its 47th International Boule, July 25-30, at the Riviera Hotel, 2901 S. Las Vegas Blvd. Dr. LaRona J. Morris, the 18th International Grand Basileus, has issued the call to thousands of sorors from chapters around the country and outside of the United States to attend.

Entertainment for the public meeting and reception will be provided by the Katherine Dunham Dancers. Other Boule highlights will include a women's rites of passage personal empowerment program led by author and lecturer Dr. Emily Gunter; a comedy step jam featuring special guest comedienne Leighann Lord; a National Education Fund luncheon titled "Hats Off to Excellence"; a book signing by Professor Carlton Jackson, author of "Hattie"; and a performance by recording artist Maysa at the Blue and Gold Banquet.

Sigma Gamma Rho was founded in 1922 at Butler University in Indianapolis,

Indiana by seven educators.

The sorority boasts such famous members as actresses Victoria Rowell from "Diagnosis Murder" and Tonya Williams from "The Young and the Restless," and gospel singer Vanessa Bell Armstrong, to name a few.

Sigma serves the community through its international service project Operation BigBookBag in partnership with the A.E.A.O. Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Inc. The project provides educational materials, books and computers to children who are housed in homeless shelters or receiving extended care in hospitals.

The Boule, themed "Sigma Soaring into the Next Millennium: Through Sisterhood, Family Commitment and Education," will be hosted by Eta Chi Sigma Graduate Chapter and official hostess Corine J. Green. For more information, contact executive director Bonita Herring at the sorority's national headquarters, (773) 873-9000, or local liaison Joyce Thomas, 649-4599.



SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.
47th INTERNATIONAL BOULE
July 25-30, 1998



La Rona J. Morris, Ph.D.
International Grand Basileus

Boule Theme:
"Sigma Soaring Into The Next Millenium: Through Sisterhood, Family Commitment and Education"

Public Meeting
Sunday, July 26th
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
Riviera Hotel
2901 Las Vegas Blvd.

