

## McMillan

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owned Caravan Services, a transportation company for elderly and handicapped MediCare patients.

"I've been knowing him since the early 60s," Conners said. "Dr. McMillan thought very broad. He wasn't just focused on today. Like right now, he'd be planning for 2003 or 2004. He really profited for thinking in the future."

Clark County School District Board Trustee Shirley Barber was one of Dr. McMillan's contemporaries, serving on several committee boards with him and running against him for a trustees post years ago.

We were very friendly ... He was what you really call a pioneer," she said. "He was

out there in the community, all of the time. He was also pro kids — that impressed me."

"He always tried to help everyone. That was his whole life, making living better for black people," Mrs. McMillan said.

"He was good at getting people together and suggesting how they could get things done without conflict."

McMillan's son, Jeff, recalls a different memory of his father.

"I remember a lot of threats and being very frightened growing up," he said. "We used to put tape on the hood of the car and if it was broken, we knew someone tampered with it. It was terrifying not knowing if

the car was going to blow up when you started the engine."

Despite the problems inherent in being the son of the controversial trailblazer, Jeff McMillan said he was "pretty close" to his dad.

"You've never seen the type of heart he has," he said. "No one has a kinder, more genuine heart than my father. Most only see the vocal rabblouser ... He respected people, regardless of who they were."

Sarann Knight Preddy, who served as Vice President under him when he was the President of the NAACP said, "He was one of the finest gentlemen I have had the privilege of meeting throughout my life. He was a very strong person who stood up for what he believed



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice

Dr. James McMillan, dentist, works on a patient.

in the community."

Sen. Joe Neal remembers McMillan as a friend and colleague. "He and I were very good friends. I also worked with him in the NAACP. He made great contributions to civil rights for blacks in this state. I will miss him," Neal said.

"There was a law in Las Vegas that black people could work and perform on the strip

but could not stay there," Frank Hawkins recalled. "In 1965 McMillan was instrumental in a sit down at the Moulin Rouge where they signed the law into affect that changed that. He is a hero and his influence will not be forgotten in the history of Las Vegas."

Although Marie McMillan loved James McMillan's oratory skills, his

forcefulness and strong convictions, she will always remember him as a "powerful, wonderful, magnificent man" with "sweet kisses and hugs."

She recounted how they once flew over the Bermuda Triangle together.

"I have 656 flying records and they are because of his encouragement. He always wanted women to be their own person," she said. "When I returned from a record breaking flight over the Caribbean Islands, he greeted me with a huge bunch of yellow roses and a card that said, 'Welcome home, Ace!' He was an Ace himself."

Along with his wife, Marie, and son, Jeff, Dr. McMillan is survived by three more sons and a daughter: Jamel, Jack, Chris and Jarmilla.

Funeral services will take place Saturday, March 27th at Palm Mortuary, 1325 N. Main St. McMillan will be laid to rest at Paradise Memorial Gardens, underneath the approach to runways 25 and 26 at McCarran Airport, a fitting place for a pilot.

The services and burial are open to the public. The family will host a reception at Zion United Methodist, 2108 N. Revere St.

## NJ lawmaker proposes tougher boxing reforms

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey lawmaker introduced a bill Monday that would require state officials — not promoters and sanctioning bodies — to appoint and pay boxing judges.

The bill by State Sen. Richard Codey comes in the wake of the disputed draw of the March 13 heavyweight title fight between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis.

Codey says the three main boxing bodies — the WBC, WBA and IBF - appoint judges for boxing matches in New Jersey and the promoter pay their fees and expenses.

A spokeswoman for the state Athletic Control Board said the state chooses judges in all but the title fights, and even then has approval of the selections.

Critics contend the current system encourages judges to feel beholden toward the sanctioning bodies and the promoter because they choose the judges and pay for them.

In the Holyfield-Lewis fight, IBF judge Eugenia Williams of Atlantic City was the only one of three judges to call Holyfield - who holds the IBF title — the winner.

Even though the fight was held in New York, Codey thinks New Jersey should examine its system.

"Having promoters involved in paying

the judges and apparently selecting them smells of fight-fixing, whether that occurs in reality or not," said Codey, the minority leader of the New Jersey Senate.

IBF president Bob Lee dismissed Codey's proposal as a "knee-jerk reaction."

"I don't think it's right for the public sector to take the authority away from a private company," he said. "If the title belongs to the IBF, then we ought to have something to say about the people who are officiating."

Rhonda Utley-Herring, executive assistant to state boxing commissioner Larry Hazzard, said the state already appoints the three judges and one referee for each match.

In non-title fights, the commission assigns all four officials, she said. In world title fights, the commission assigns two officials and the sanctioning body makes a recommendation on the other two, with the state empowered to either approve or reject the recommendations, she said. Expenses and fees, meanwhile, are paid for by the promoter. The checks are deposited into the state treasury and the commission then issues separate state checks to the officials, she said. Codey said that wasn't so. He said promoters still pay officials directly. In either case, he said, the bill would make direct payments against the law.

## Brutality

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Black Leadership Forum.

"Ninety percent were Hispanic or African-American youths, who had their whole life chances distorted arbitrarily because they were railroaded into the criminal justice system," she said. The civil rights leaders also asked Reno to explore whether federal aid could be withheld from departments with either an unusually high number of complaints of excessive force or major, unresolved cases.

They urged her to get

funds from Congress to collect nationwide data on excessive force cases, which was authorized by the 1994 Crime Act but never funded.

And they asked her to advocate civilian police review boards with authority to investigate cases and subpoena power.

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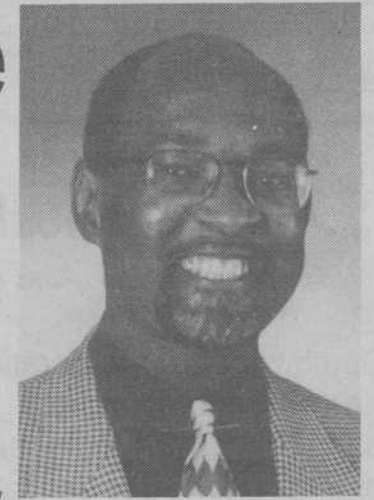
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