



Washington named city fire chief

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

Dave Washington received unanimous support from the Las Vegas City Council Wednesday morning to become the city's first African-American Fire Chief. Washington has been the Interim Fire Chief since the departure of Mario Trevino, who left the city in May for a position in San Francisco.

Washington has served on the fire department for 27 years. He joined after his release from the Army.

City Manager Virginia Valentine said she chose Washington because he has worked his way up through ranks in the fire department

and she was committed to finding someone within the fire department to become its new leader. Washington was chosen out of a pool of four finalists all of whom were Deputy Fire Chiefs.

To aid her in the search for the right person, Valentine enlisted the help of three fire chiefs from other cities: Denver, Sacramento and Madison, Wisconsin.

The process was lengthy and involved evaluations, assessments of skills and interviews. Washington was chosen because he displayed the skills, experience and character that set him apart, Valentine said.

Prior to the council vote, objections were raised by Dean Fletcher, head of Local 1260 of the Interna-



CHIEF DAVID WASHINGTON

tional Association of Firefighters, who told the council and mayor he did not understand why the selection process was changed. The evaluation was not tabulated numerically and he wanted to know why Valentine had changed the policy and chosen "outside chiefs" to help her make the decision.

His objections were quashed by Mayor Oscar Goodman, who said he had listened to Fletcher's concerns on Tuesday and reviewed the matter. Regardless of the manner in which the evaluation was conducted, the outcome would have been the same, he said.

"The process worked, the right man was picked. All had an equal shot at the position," he said.

Goodman then read e-mails from two of the three deputy chiefs who had been considered for the position. Both endorsed the process and the selection of Washington.

Chief Washington thanked the council for its support and confidence in him and pledged to work with the labor union. One of his goals, he said, is to make Las Vegas a "Class One City."

Washington will earn about \$100,000 a year and now leads a fire department that has 560 employees. He not only brings years of work as a firefighter to the table, he's also well known for his commitment and service to the community.

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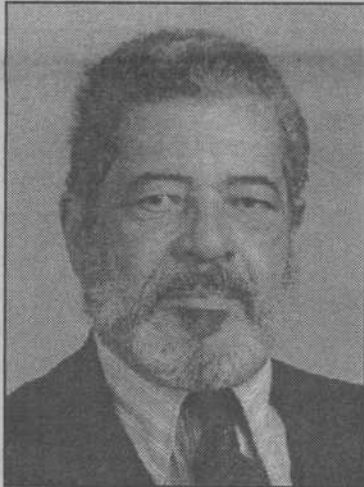
Activist recalled as trailblazer

By Al Triche
Sentinel-Voice

J. David Hoggard, Sr., a pioneer in the African-American community of southern Nevada, was laid to rest yesterday at Palm Mortuary following funeral services at Zion Methodist Church.

David Hoggard, the name he preferred, died last week on Wednesday evening at the Nathan Adelson Hospice in Las Vegas. Hoggard passed away at the age of 86, "very peacefully, as he would have wanted to do," said a family spokesperson.

"I'm doing as well as I can," his widow, Verlia Davis-Hoggard, said on Monday, expressing gratitude for the "good



J. DAVID HOGGARD, SR.

support" she has received from family and friends. "We're holding up," said his son, J. David Hoggard, Jr.

"He had been sick off and on over the last six or seven months, so this was not unexpected."

Born in Jersey City on November 25, 1914, the oldest of six children, Hoggard lived in New Jersey until he was drafted in 1943 and eventually assigned here, to Nellis Air Force Base. Following his discharge from the military and a brief interlude back east, Hoggard moved permanently to Las Vegas during the time when black residence was restricted to "the westside."

Hoggard went on to become one of Las Vegas' most prominent African-American commu-

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Schwikert captures U.S. championship

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Tasha Schwikert won't be taking much time off to celebrate her first U.S. gymnastics title.

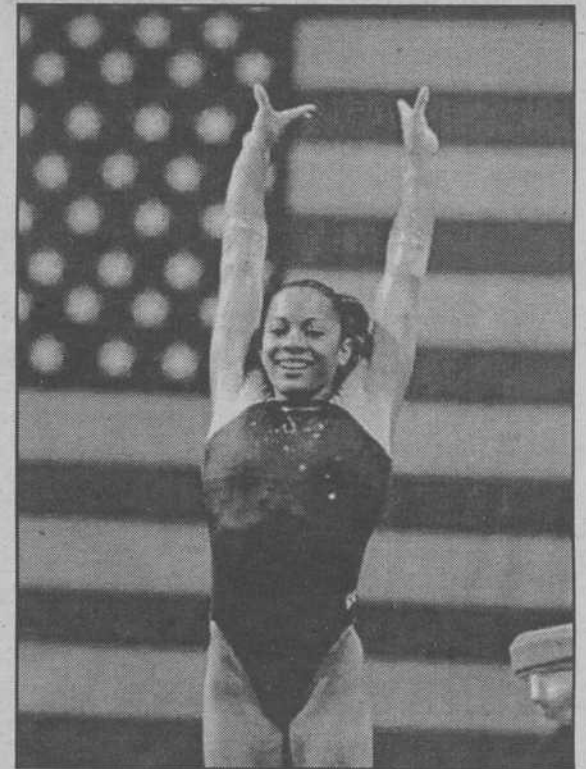
There's too much work to do.

"I'm so excited, but we still have worlds so I've got to stay focused," she said after winning her first title at the U.S. Gymnastics Championships. "Hopefully we can be strong at worlds."

The year after the Olympics is usually a time of transition, and this year is no different. Two of the top men are hurt and another's hobbled, and most of the best women's talent is at the junior level.

Schwikert and men's champion Sean Townsend are 2000 Olympians, but the rest of the world championship team is an inexperienced bunch. Worlds are Oct. 28-Nov. 4 in Ghent, Belgium.

The U.S. women have one sure thing, and that's Schwikert. She's made amazing strides this year,



AP Photo/Chris Gardner

Tasha Schwikert of Las Vegas reacts after performing in the vault competition at the U.S. Gymnastic Championships in Philadelphia, Saturday.

showing a confidence and sass the Americans haven't had since the Magnificent Seven.

Her lowest score at nationals was a 9.050, and three of her eight routines earned 9.5s or better. With two months before worlds, she could add even more difficulty.

"We have some things that can be done," said Cassie Rice, Schwikert's coach. "But I want to make sure it's solid."

Summit examines gaming industry

Urban Chamber wants increased diversity in U.S. casinos

By Nancy Watson
Sentinel-Voice

Two predominant impressions remain after Saturday's close of the three-day Urban Chamber of Commerce gaming conference. Hope is one of those impressions. Change for the better, regarding diversity, has begun in the gaming industry.

The need for continued vigilance is the other impression. For while things have begun to change, there is still a long way to go.

Nationally and locally, the changes have come about due to the astute leadership of African-Americans who stepped forward at crucial



Sentinel-Voice photo by Robert Bell

Urban Chamber Executive Director Louie Overstreet chats with Nevada Gaming Control Board member Bobby Siller during the Chamber's second annual gaming conference last week at the MGM Grand.

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