

Review shows narrow margin

Associated Press

A vote-by-vote review of untallied ballots in the 2000 Florida presidential election indicates George W. Bush would have narrowly prevailed in the partial recounts sought by Al Gore, but Gore might have reversed the outcome - by the barest of margins - had he pursued and gained a complete statewide recount.

Bush eventually won Florida, and thus the White House, by 537 votes out of more than 6 million cast. But questions about the uncounted votes lingered.

Almost a year after that cliffhanger conclusion, a media-sponsored review of the more than 175,000 disputed ballots underscored that the prize of the U.S. presidency came down to an almost unimaginably small number of votes.

The new data, compiled by The Associated Press and seven other news organizations, also suggested that Gore followed a legal strat-

egy after Election Day that would have led to defeat even if it had not been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court. Gore sought a recount of a relatively small portion of the state's disputed ballots while the review indicates his only chance lay in a course he advocated publicly but did not pursue in court - a full statewide recount of all Florida's untallied votes.

"We are a nation of laws and the presidential election of 2000 is over," Gore said Sunday in a prepared statement. "Right now, our country faces a great challenge as we seek to successfully combat terrorism. I fully support President Bush's efforts to achieve that goal."

Said Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer: "The election was settled a year ago, President Bush won and the voters have long since moved on."

Against the backdrop of the disputed Nov. 7, 2000, election, the news organizations set out earlier this year (See Florida, Page 17)

Rev. King's widow dedicates monument

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - At the former seat of the Confederacy's government, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s widow helped dedicate a tree and a flat, granite marker Wednesday to honor the fallen civil rights leader.

"This tree is strong. Oak trees represent strength, and my husband certainly had plenty of that," Coretta Scott King said after a brief ceremony on the grounds of the Capitol that was the seat of the Confederate government from 1862 to 1865.

"This is especially significant to me because Virginia is the home state of many architects of American democracy," she said.

The 15-foot-tall red oak is about 150 feet from a statue of Harry F. Byrd Sr., an ardent segregationist who, while U.S. senator from 1933-65, led Virginia's struggle against federal orders to desegregate public schools.

The memorial is about 100 feet from the spot Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as the Confederacy's president. To the southeast is the spot where Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate forces.

The tree is also near the site where L. Douglas Wilder, the grandson of slaves, was sworn in as the nation's first and only elected black governor in 1990.

Mrs. King's two-day visit was partly a tribute to Gov. Jim Gilmore, who last year won swift approval of legislation that created a state holiday recognizing King. Before that, King had shared a holiday with Confederate Gens. Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson.

"Martin Luther King had a vision and it was that the Declaration of Independence be a reality for all Americans," Gilmore said. "We should celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday in the same way we do those brave Virginians who helped found this nation."

Gilmore leaves office on Jan. 12, barred by Virginia's unique one-term limit from seeking re-election. He will work full time as chairman of the Republican National Committee.

The governor and his newly elected successor, Democrat Mark Warner, attended a reception in Mrs. King's honor Tuesday evening.

Firefighters host scholarship dinner

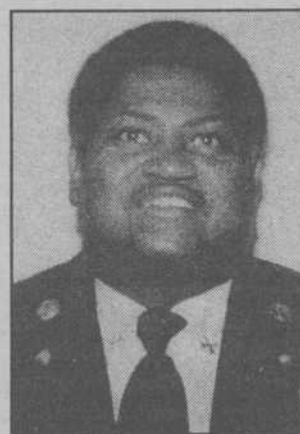
Special to Sentinel-Voice

The United Firefighters of Southern Nevada (UFFSN), an affiliate of the International Association of Black Professional Firefighters, will host its 20th Anniversary Celebration and Scholarship Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 17. At Jasmine Gardens, 2550 Duneville Street near Sahara and Jones, starting at 6 p.m., there will be a southern-style dinner followed by a dance to top off the evening.

Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly will be the Master of Cer-



DAVID WASHINGTON emonies, with Councilwoman Lynette Boggs McDonald slated as the keynote speaker. Presentations will be made to Lawrence



LAWRENCE WICKLIFFE Wickliffe, president of UFFSN, and to David Washington, Las Vegas Fire Chief and founding president of UFFSN.

This year's scholarship recipients are Ariel Johnson and Kamilah Biwater.

The UFFSN membership consists of local fire service professionals from the cities of Las Vegas and North Las Vegas.

Their programs are geared toward improving the minority and underprivileged communities in southern Nevada.

Recruitment of minorities into the fire services is a great priority for the organization.

For more information, call 648-2313.

Black officers to hold awards, scholarship banquet

By Melinda A. Vereeh
Special to Sentinel Voice

The National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (N.O.B.L.E.) presented its third annual awards and scholarship banquet at the Palace Station Hotel and Casino Saturday. Several award presentations were made, but more importantly, proceeds from the banquet will go towards two \$1,000 scholarships for high school students in Las Vegas.

"N.O.B.L.E. was founded in 1976 when sixty black leaders in law enforcement who were concerned about black-on-black crime and supporting each other in their agencies," says Captain Greg McCurdy, President of N.O.B.L.E. and this year's recipient of the Larry C. Bolden Award. "During that time, there weren't many blacks who were lieutenants or above. Therefore, N.O.B.L.E. has a mission to support one another by mentoring and providing assistance to promote," continued McCurdy.

The members of the organization continue to educate the community about ways to develop the skills to become leaders in law enforcement agencies and how to interact with law enforcement officials.

Lamont Siller, Secretary for N.O.B.L.E., has been a member for 3 years, informing the community and public, especially the youth, about various aspects of law. Although Siller will be leaving the state to become an agent for the FBI, he

will continue to share what N.O.B.L.E. represents to his new community.

The Walter Lawson Award was presented to Larry Mosley, President of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. - Las Vegas Chapter, which he founded last year. Herb Brown, Constable of North Las Vegas and Recruitment Chairman for N.O.B.L.E., received the President's Award.

Although N.O.B.L.E. is continuously mentoring, McCurdy said, "I would like to see the organization get more involved in mentoring on a larger scale, and to provide collective work between N.O.B.L.E., National Black Police Association and the 100 Black Men as well as other organizations who are making a difference in our community. We must help develop young men and women in our community and throughout the Las Vegas Valley to provide a better place for us to live and work."

Other dignitaries present included Las Vegas Fire Chief David Washington. KVVU-TV's Lillian McMorris served as Mistress of Ceremonies, Metro Deputy Chief Bill Young and Lt. Robert Wright provided the music.

The goal of N.O.B.L.E. is to be recognized as a highly competent, public service organization that is at the forefront of providing solutions to law enforcement issues and concerns, as well as to the ever-changing needs of our communities.

For more information, call 597-6701.

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