

Beverage groups' golf event to raise funds for scholarships

By John T. Stephens III
Sentinel-Voice

The Southern Nevada Retail Beverage Scholarship Fund, with the Black Tavern and Retail Beverage Association, are sponsoring the ninth-annual Golf Event.

Roosevelt Toston, manager of diversity marketing for the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor Authority (LVCVA), is this year's honoree. The Golf Event will be held Saturday, Sept. 13 at Las Vegas National Country Club, 1911 E. Desert Inn Road, with a continental breakfast being served and a shotgun start at 7 a.m.

Registration for the tournament starts at 6 a.m. After the tournament, golfers will be treated to a luncheon, raffle, prizes and an awards presentation.

"I am ecstatic, elated and extremely grateful to have been selected," Toston said. "I cannot imagine anyone not wanting his or her name attached to (this Golf Event)."

"For almost a decade, this scholarship fund-raising event has been a financial benefit to so many de-



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serving youths in our community."

Norma Russell, director, said the golf event has raised \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually for scholarships.

"This year we are trying to make it a blockbuster year," Russell said. "This year we are hoping to raise \$50,000 for scholarships."

The Black Tavern and Beverage Association is made up of eight black-owned taverns in Nevada. Each year, eight to ten worthy students are sponsored in their first year of college. Sponsorship doesn't always end with just payment for classes. The fund helps students to pay for books and clothes.

Russell feels that every disadvantage and needy child should have an opportunity

to go to college despite their financial situation. The cost of attending college is rising.

"Which is really hard because they all deserve to go," said Russell, who wants to help high school students from the inner city. "That is the most complicated part."

Scholarship recipients are selected on biographies submitted to the association and participation in Clark County's Summer Business Institute. This Clark County-directed program has high school juniors and seniors working (with pay) summer jobs with access to a mentor.

"In this technology-driven world we have come to know education is more (See Golf Event, Page 4)

Forum to cite health disparities

Karenga, Hood to speak during one-day forum

Special to Sentinel-Voice

Drs. Maulana Karenga, creator of Kwanzaa, and Rodney Hood, past president of the National Medical Association, will be the featured speakers during a one-day "Health Disparities Symposium" hosted by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health.

The conference will take place Saturday, Sept. 20, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Nevada Partners, 710 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

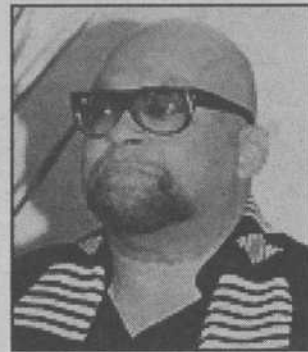
The Healthy Hearts Project operates under a REACH 2010 Grant funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The goal of REACH is the elimination of health disparities. The focus of the Healthy Hearts Project is cardiovascular disease, which is the number one killer of all Americans. African-Americans' mortality rate is 40 per-

cent higher than whites, creating an unacceptable disparity in mortality. The root cause for this disparity has been documented in the Institutes of Medicine report published in March of 2002 and more recently in the American Diabetes Association Publication dated July 29. The latter report states the results of a diabetes association study, which reported, "When care is equal, minorities are less likely to die from complications of diabetes than Caucasians."

Karenga is a professor at

California State University-Long Beach with the Department of Black Studies. He is also chairman of the President's Task Force on Multicultural Education and Campus Diversity at the university. Karenga is the author of numerous articles and books, including: "Introduction to Black Studies" and "Kwanzaa and the Nguzo Saba." Karenga chairs Us and the National Association of Kawaida. He is the executive director of the African-

(See Health, Page 5)



Crear remembered for lifetime of service in medicine, community

By Les Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

More than 200 mourners gathered last Saturday at Zion United Methodist Church to pay their last respects to Dr. John Richard Crear, 78, who died on August 18th. He had taken ill earlier this year a family member said. Crear was the second African-American physician to practice medicine in the state of Nevada.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 23, with the Rev. Marion D. Bennett officiating and delivering the invocation. Interment followed at Palm Mortuary and Cemetery.

Crear spent most of his 35-year medical career dedicated to family practice and specializing in chemical dependency. He founded the West-Crear Medical Society and was the former medical director of the Nevada Treatment Center, where he was facilitator of the chemical dependency rehabilitation program.

One of his colleagues, Dr. Beverly Neyland, shared some warm thoughts and expressions of love during the eulogy.

"John was a good, dedicated, humane and compassionate physician who gave a lifetime of service in providing health care to his patients," Neyland said. "He not only gave his all to improve the quality of health care in Las Vegas, but he diligently encouraged other physicians to do likewise. Even after his own health began to fail, John kept going as long as he could trying to bring good health care to others."

"So today, as we pause to celebrate the life of John Crear, we cannot avoid the immediate sadness that we share," Neyland continued. "On the other hand, we are glad that God sent a pioneer named John to help blaze the trail for the many African-American physicians who now practice in Las Vegas. In so many ways, we find ourselves standing on the shoulders of this pioneering physician, and we will always be eternally grateful for his leadership in this medical community."

Other words of tribute and expressions of love were shared by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nevada, and Jerome Young, vice president of public gaming for International Game Technology.

Crear was born on March 5, 1925 in Bryant, Texas. He was the only child born to the late John and Josie Crear. He served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II and later attended and graduated from Prairie View A&M University. He then went on to attend medical school at the University of California at Irvine. He was also a member and shared a brotherhood in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Crear is survived by his loving wife, Barbara, four children, John (Ricky), Kenneth, Cedric and Joan Crear; nine grandchildren, and a host of extended family members.

"He was well loved by many and will be truly missed by all," Neyland said. "God rests his soul."

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