

Military ball salutes Vegas mothers

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

Members of the Retired Military Association gathered at the Gold Coast Casino to celebrate its 17th annual Mother's Day Ball on Saturday.

This event honors wives, mothers and special lady members of the RMA, while raising scholarship dollars for college-bound students or college students. "This is our annual Mother's Day Ball," said spokesperson Archie Walden.

"We are retired military personnel who have hosted this event for our loved ones for the past 17 years. It's an event, a night out for our mothers and our wives. It's fun for everyone. We don't make a lot of money sponsoring this event. We just celebrate Mother's Day a day earlier, showing respect to our wives and mothers," Walden added.

Each year the event is held at a different location in the Las Vegas Valley, giving the RMA a change of venue that adds to the excitement of sponsoring this event. Members look forward to getting together to celebrate another year.

"Throughout the years we have gotten support from various dignitaries, including some of our Congressmen



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Motherly Love: Attendees at the Retired Military Association's 17th Annual Mother's Day Ball on Saturday at the Gold Coast not only commemorated special women—wives, mothers—but also raised scholarship funds for high school seniors bound for college.

and Senators and the mayor of Las Vegas," Walden said. "We're not a political group, but we don't shun away from it. We're former Army, Navy and Marine personnel who formed this association about 18 years ago to raise money for scholarships for our young people to attend college and assist them academically or survive while attending college."

One of the highlights of the Mother's Day Ball is a fashion show featuring members of the RMA and their wives or significant others. People come dressed to the max, donning after-five at-

tire and making a fashion statement to the delight of the audience. After dinner and the fashion show, the group settled down to a swinging showcase of dance and musical entertainment.

Other events sponsored by the RMA include an annual New Year's Bash, football outings to Arizona and San Diego, Little League Baseball, Cub Scouts, a trip to the jazz festival on Father's Day and shopping trips to Los Angeles and elsewhere.

A sense of community is important to the RMA. The group participates in the Veterans Day and King Day pa-

rades and works with youths at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, reaching out to the community and hoping that they remember the retired military personnel and what they mean to the community. RMA sponsors three-on-three basketball tournaments.

Peter Flangas, a local attorney who has supported the Mother's Day Ball for 17 years, was acknowledged. Ernest del Casal, a candidate for Las Vegas School Board in District C, was introduced.

RMA wants more members. For more information about RMA, contact Warden at (702) 649-2619.

Doolittle Center to host 12th Unity Festival

Special to Sentinel-Voice

The Unity Festival, the longest-running program in West Las Vegas offered by the city's Department of Leisure Services, will be held outdoors on Saturday at the Doolittle Community Center.

The festival started out as proactive. The program was designed to bring the community together after the Rodney King riots in 1992. After 11 years, Unity Festival is a tradition in community programming and attracts more than 3,000 participants every year.

"This annual event is designed to bring residents together to celebrate what makes our community great," Councilman Lawrence Weekly said. "We have dozens of community partners who will be on hand providing information about how residents can get involved in their neighborhoods."

The 12th Annual Unity Festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Doolittle is located at 1950 North 'J' St. Sponsors this year include the Clark County Cooperative Extension and Clark County

Juvenile Services.

The festival will offer free children's activities, a slam-dunk contest, strong man competition and three-point shoot-out. The Soul Brothers motorcycle club will display their bikes and low rider car and truck owners will display show cars.

A full three hours of on-going entertainment will include dance performances by The Bomb Squad, Hip Hop Clowns, Victory Praise Dancers, Critical Kondition, High Steppers, Groove Theory, Itty Bitty Jammers, Jam Squad and Elite groups. The Marc One six-piece band and rappers Big Family, One Vibe, Dream Team and Finesse Productions will entertain during the afternoon.

Eight-time international champion and grand master Kraiguar Smith and his class will demonstrate martial arts techniques. Mirabelli Magic gymnasts will do coordinated routines.

The West Las Vegas Library will provide children's crafts. Community partners A.D. Guy Family Resource Center, Best Coalition, Clark County Government Busi-

ness Development, Diverge Institute of Learning and Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts will provide displays and information on community programs.

Other resources include: Las Vegas Gladiators, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police D.A.R.E program, Matt Kelly Parent Center, Nevada State College, Nevada Youth Alliance, Strengthening America's Communities, Trinity Black Art Gallery, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Victory Neighborhood Service Center and the Dyess Aids Project of Las Vegas.

The Alliance of Black Culinarians will sell refresh-

ments.

The Department of Leisure Services provides a wide range of programming at the recently remodeled Doolittle Community Center. The facility offers two indoor gymnasiums, swimming pool, water tot lot, computer lab, game room, cardio/weight room, kitchen and banquet room. The center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m., providing a variety of activities.

For more information on the event or to request a free class and activity schedule, call (702) 229-6374.

Sentinel-Voice copy editor to lead talk on Black newspapers

Sentinel-Voice

Albert C. Jones, copy editor for the "Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice," will lead a discussion of the influence of African-American newspapers on Saturday, May 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Arts Center.

"The Black Press has been important in the African-American experience," said Ramon Savoy, publisher and editor of the Sentinel-Voice, Nevada's only Black Press publication. "This is an important topic because the Black Press has served as a vanguard advocating for the civil rights and human rights of African-Americans."

The Cultural Affairs Division of the city of Las Vegas Department of Leisure Services presents "Newspapers in African-American History." The West Las Vegas Arts Center is located at 947 W. Lake Mead Blvd.

The first Black-owned and operated newspaper in the United States got its start on March 16, 1827 in New York City. John B. Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish started "Freedom's Journal". The paper was a forum to discuss anti-slavery issues and exchange ideas among free Blacks.

Since that day, Black-owned and Black-operated newspapers have had a history of being proactive and at the vanguard of the equal rights and civil rights movements in this country. Jones has worked in the newspaper business for more than 18 years, including stints as a reporter, copy editor, sports reporter, sports editor, managing editor and photographer. He has gained experience at three daily newspapers, four weekly newspapers and Odyssey West Magazine in Denver.

He was a sports copy editor at The Cleveland Plain Dealer, one of the largest daily newspapers in the country. He served as managing editor of The Call and Post in Columbus, Ohio. The Call and Post, with editions in Columbus, Cleveland and Cincinnati, was formerly the biggest Black-owned business in the state of Ohio. Jones is currently copy editor for the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice. He is also a full-time employee with the Clark County School District.

"He has been an asset since joining our staff part-time in March 2003," Savoy said. "We see this as the community's chance to come out and meet Mr. Jones and get familiar with the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice family."

Jones, who recently completed a 700-page American Novel on the two distinct languages developed by slaves and former slave beyond the Middle Passage, holds a bachelor's degree in history from Olivet College in Michigan. He is seeking a publisher for his novel.

Jones also holds a Master's Degree in Black Church Studies from Ashland Theological Seminary in Ashland, Ohio. He is an ordained minister in the Baptist denomination. He recently joined Second Baptist Church, where the Rev. Willie Davis is pastor. Jones plans to teach at and continue his studies at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, advancing toward a doctorate focusing on "An African-American Hermeneutic" as the embodiment of a people's experience. Admission is free. For further information, call (702) 229-4800.

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