



The sun rises on the Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of Baghdad on Tuesday. On Monday a judge declared the prison a crime scene and forbade its destruction, as had been previously requested by President Bush.

## Bush cited right to ignore laws

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush claimed the right to waive anti-torture laws and treaties covering prisoners of war after the invasion of Afghanistan, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld authorized guards to strip detainees and threaten them with dogs, according to documents released Tuesday.

The documents were handed out at the White House in an effort to blunt allegations that the administration had authorized torture against al-Qaida prisoners from Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I have never ordered torture," Bush said. "I will never order torture. The values of this country are such that torture is not a part of our soul and our being."

The memos were meant to deal with an election-year headache that followed revelations about abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, but the documents also brought to light some practices that the administration decided had

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## Friends honor retiring educator

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

Friends and well wishers of educator Anika Johnson-Cunningham gathered in Jasmine Gardens to acknowledge 27 years of commitment and dedication to Clark County students at a retirement send-off banquet on Friday.

Johnson-Cunningham, a principal at Jo Mackey Elementary School for the past three years, was greeted with warm farewells and regrets of many saddened by her departure. Many thanked her for her spirit and zeal, saying it will remain as a reminder of her accomplishments.

Nyla Christian, niece of Johnson-Cunningham, served as mistress of ceremony.

"Anika is an educator in the biggest sense; not only does she teach children but she also teaches the community," Christian said. "We named her Mother Africa in Las Vegas because she started the first community Kwanzaa celebration here."

Johnson-Cunningham was reflective.

"It's a great honor, you know, I had a good ride in the



Sentinel-Voice photo by Isadore Washington

Anika Johnson-Cunningham worked 27 years in the school district. Her husband, Tim, was among those celebrating her retirement at a Friday party inside Jasmine Gardens.

Clark County School District for 27 years," she said. "In addition to working with this district as an educator, I have worked in the community as an educator and I appreciate everyone who has come out to recognize me and all the things that I have done."

Johnson-Cunningham spoke about the state of education.

"I am frustrated, and I'm at the point of saying that we need our own schools," she said. "I hesitate to say this but a long time ago it was said that no one is going to teach our kids like we can teach our

kids. We have got to take responsibility for our kids. There are Black people out there who have the money and need to give up this money and start building schools in our communities. Otherwise we are in big trouble, more trouble than we've been in for a long time. We're going backwards and people don't understand what I'm telling them. We have to start teaching our own."

Focus has evolved from the revolution of the 1960s and Black history classes in the 1980s to multicultural classes, which includes all

ethnic groups to diversity, including the handicapped and all the others.

"I don't have a problem with that, but my concern is that our issue is different," Johnson-Cunningham said. "Of every other culture, we're the only culture whose history was taken away from us. We don't know it. Our parents can't teach it to our kids because they don't know it. Black teachers can't teach it to our kids because they don't know it and White teachers don't know it. So, when you don't have multicultural classes and Black history classes in schools, when you don't have these types of classes in the institutions that teachers are coming out of, then we're right back where we started."

Cunningham arrived in Las Vegas in 1974 from New York, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the State University of New York (SUNY). She received her master's degree from Antioch Teachers College and a certification for administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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## Stars join chorus of those saying goodbye to Ray Charles

By Kathy Williamson  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Heaven wanted some music and God sent for Ray Charles" — Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) Family, friends, celebrities and luminaries gathered for the two hour homegoing celebration of beloved musical legend, Ray Charles, 73, who died June 10 from complications of liver disease.

Charles' son, Rev. Robert Robinson, Sr. of Greater Faith Ministries, set the tone and brought the congregation to their feet in "praise and hallelujah." He invited everyone to "clap your hands, stomp your feet..." and give God thanks for "giving us Ray Charles." Through tears and laughter, the congregation followed his lead.



Pall bearers tote a coffin carrying the body of music icon Ray Charles. Homegoing ceremonies for Charles, who transcended various musical genres and influenced a generation of crooners, took place Friday in Los Angeles. Charles was 73 years old.

Lining the outer aisles of the church were 12 identical White floral standing arrangements highlighted with red treble clefs, representing each of his children.

The Crenshaw High School Elite Choir, under the direction of Iris Stevenson, provided a perfect melodic backdrop for the joyous service.

Musical interludes were provided by close friends and fellow musicians: David "Fathead" Newman performed a rich rendition of "Precious Lord" on saxophone. Glen Campbell's "Where Could I Go, But to the Lord?" had the capacity crowd clapping in unison. Whispered accolades (and some louder) followed former "Raelette" Susan Green's incredible offering of "The

Lord's Prayer."

Charles' longtime manager, Joe Adams, acted as emcee for the service. As he introduced Willie Nelson, Adams said, "Ray and Willie were both avid chess players and would play against each other between shows. Ray would always win."

Nelson added that he asked Ray, "The next time, could we turn the lights on?"

Amidst tears, the country singer sang, "Georgia on My Mind."

B.B. King remembered visiting Charles to discuss their collaboration on, "Save the Bones for Henry Jones, cuz Henry Don't Eat No Meat." King said that the two met in a room with the lights off. After awhile, King said, "Ray, why don't you turn the

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