

Ray Charles

(Continued from Page 1) lights on?" Charles said, "Well, I'm doing all right!" According to King, Charles thought that the blues man sang "Save the Bones" a little too slow. He said, "Brother B, I thought you was a musician!" They scrubbed that project and agreed to work on "Yellow Line." "He liked to play cards and he beat me every time," said King. "Then I got wise and realized that he'd fixed the cards with Braille." King,

kind of square, but in reality he was a swinger and (would) let you know that if you talked to him." Eastwood said, "Certainly, Ray was super-talented, but talent comes with a lot of work. I don't think I've met anyone with a stronger work ethic than Ray Charles."

Actress Cicely Tyson said that she was awakened on June 10 to Charles' rendition of "America the Beautiful." "I sat up in bed and thought that I should call and see how

a 'special record,' honoring their 60-year friendship, be played for the occasion. One of many emotional moments followed when Charles' recorded voice was heard singing, "My Buddy."

Rev. Jesse Jackson said that Charles, "...gave sight to the blind... He turned pain into power... We 'can't stop loving' him!"

Among those attending the service were Little Richard, Johnny Mathis, Berry Gordy, Jim Brown, Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top), Marilyn McCoo, Billy Davis, Debbie Allen and a host of friends and loved ones.

Cecil "Chip" Murray, senior pastor of FAME, said, "God has given us a vision — the difference between sight and insight... Ray Charles told us, 'I ain't blind, I just lost my sight.'"

Nearly 2,000 guests lined-up for a final good-bye to the "genius" still wearing his trademark sunglasses. As each person filed by the casket, the sounds of his last recording, "Over the Rainbow," a duet with Johnny Mathis, seemed to fill every corner of the church.

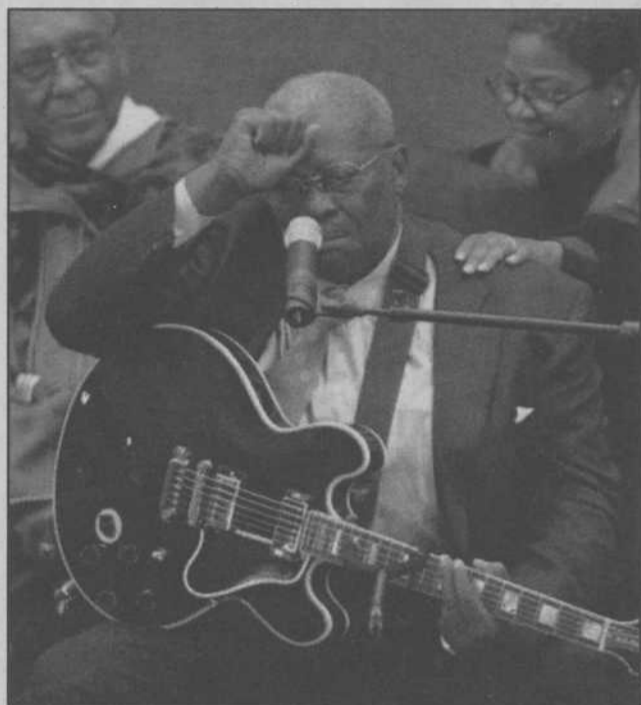
On the streets outside of FAME, overflow guests and hundreds of fans were visibly affected when his voice came over the loud speakers.

The funeral procession, with 26 motorcycle escorts, paused as they passed RPM, his recording studio on Washington Blvd. in Los Angeles, before continuing the journey to his final resting place in Inglewood Park Cemetery.

The interment completed three days of mourning of the loss of Ray Charles and yet, celebrating his life.

A private viewing was held at Angelus Funeral Home on Wednesday. On Thursday, thousands of fans paid their respects at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Next to the Charles' casket, an empty piano bench held one of his stage jackets and on the piano itself, sheet music of "What I Say," stood out as a poignant reminder of the musical "genius."

Kathy Williamson writes for the Los Angeles Sentinel



Blues legend B.B. King is overcome with emotion as he performs at funeral services for music legend Ray Charles at the First AME Church in Los Angeles on Friday.

with a "Lucille" stand-in, performed Charles' "Please Accept My Love."

Adams laughingly told the crowd that a young Little Stevie Wonder used to tell people that Charles was his uncle. Wonder reminded those gathered that Charles spent his life fighting against racial prejudice but "could not outlive hate and injustice... His voice made me feel like I wanted to love deeper, to care more and reach out and touch the world." He then offered a heartfelt, "Thank you, Lord, I Won't Complain."

Jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis concluded the musical tributes with a well-received, second-line type celebratory piece.

Adams introduced actor Clint Eastwood as "a jazz lover." He said, "He looks

he was doing. But, I couldn't reach anyone," she said. "He had given me an image of himself in the form of a slot machine. The box toppled over and I said, 'Ray, you're upside down.' Two hours later, I found out that he had died."

Adams read a letter of condolence sent by former President and wife, Bill Clinton. He also shared regrets from two friends that were unable to attend.

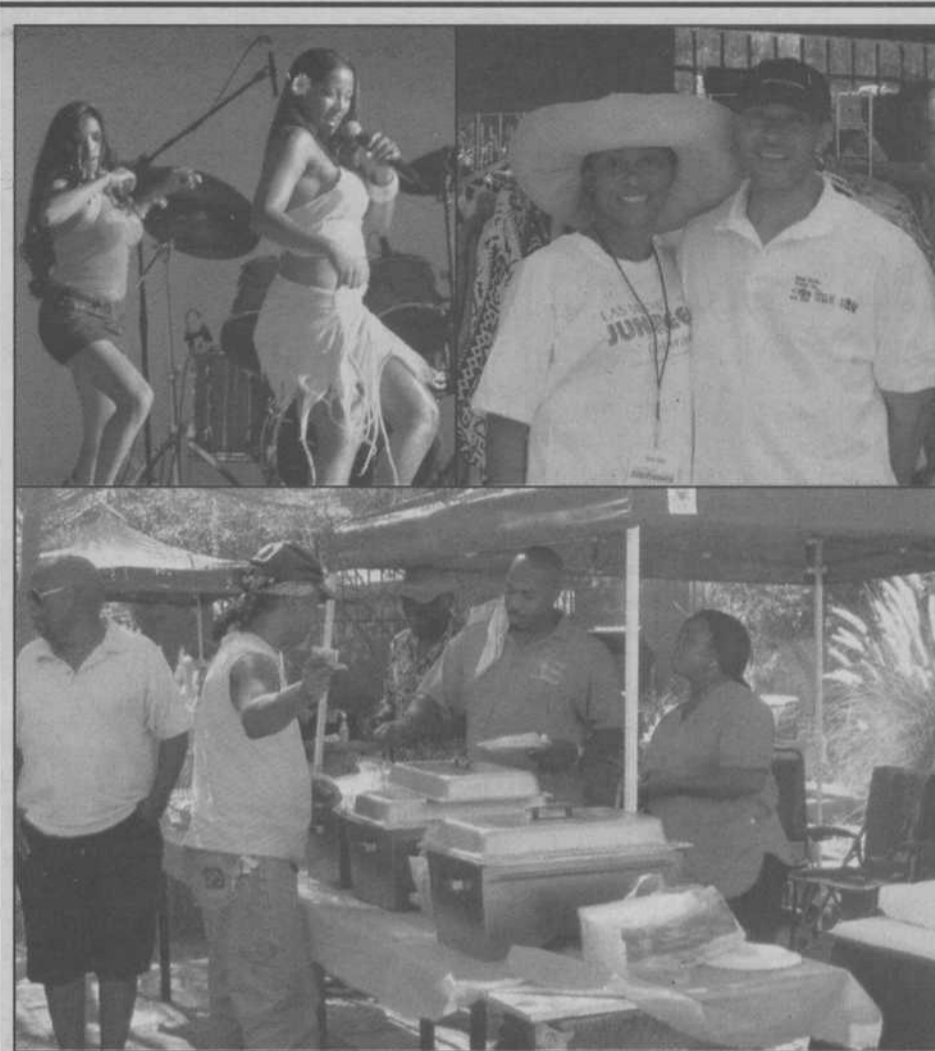
"Billy Preston cried like a baby this morning when he found (that) he couldn't be here. His doctors at Cedars Sinai said he couldn't come." Preston was reportedly admitted last Saturday for a bacterial infection that delayed his kidney dialysis. Adams told the congregation that Quincy Jones was presently in Russia, but asked that

ries a fine of less than \$70, police said.

She pleaded not guilty and appeared in traffic court Wednesday. Her trial was postponed to Sept. 13.

Christopher Nicholas, a Tallahassee attorney defending Givens in the civil case, declined to comment. Givens' traffic court attorney could not be reached.

Alcover's civil lawsuit also names Givens' sister, who owns the 2000 Mercedes SUV Givens was driving.



Sentinel-Voice photo by Les Pierres Streater

FOOD (AND FUN) FOR THOUGHT
Hundreds packed Lorenzi Park for Juneteenth festivities. (Top right, clockwise) Recording artist Marva King performed a song and dance act. Philanthropists Anthony and Dianne Pollard relax in the shade; event proceeds benefited their planned Rainbow Dreams Academy charter school. Food vendors man stations. Juneteenth commemorates the time, in 1865, that Texas slaves learned of their freedom.

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Givens

(Continued from Page 8) light turned green.

Givens, the ex-wife of former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, turned the corner and swiped Alcover, forcing her to fall backward into the SUV, which crushed her right leg, witnesses said.

Givens, who stayed with Alcover while officials arrived, was issued a traffic summons for failing to use due care when a pedestrian was in the crosswalk, which car-