



Black History— Who retells it?

By Makebra M. Anderson
Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — It's time for another annual celebration of Black History Month. Rather than celebrating, some African-Americans fear that many young people have no real appreciation for the struggle that made their lives more comfortable.

"When they confront racism for the first time — and sooner or later they will — they will be helpless because they have no reference to someone else before them who went through the same thing," says National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Board Chairman Julian Bond.

Bond, like many civil rights leaders, laments the disconnection between Black youth and the Civil Rights Movement.

"In my school days, most Black people went to segregated schools," Bond recalls. "We celebrated Negro History Week, and in almost every class, teachers found some way to work Black history into the lesson. Today, some parents don't want their children to hear the horror stories of murder, lynching and the evil that Black people faced."

Mary Frances Berry, former chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, disagrees with parents that hold that view.

"Many times, parents don't know, and the ones that do know, don't want to burden their children with what happened because, often times, the stories are of death and struggle. They want them to be optimistic and feel like they can do anything they want to do," she says. "It leaves a lot of young people unarmed when something happens to them."

They think it's their own fault when they are discriminated against."

Howard University student LaToya Williams, 22, remembers being unarmed throughout high school.

"My grandparents always referenced the Civil Rights Movement, but they never sat down with me and explained the true importance of it," she recalls. "Before I got to college, I barely learned anything about Black history aside from the little they taught about desegregation. It wasn't until I came to Howard [University] and majored in African-American studies that I learned more about the movement."

According to the Census Bureau, 57.5 percent of African-Americans were born after 1970. That means they were not alive for the 1963 March on Washington, passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1965 Voting Rights Act or the 1968 Fair Housing law.

Collectively, those laws changed the face of America, especially in the Deep South.

According to Rainbow/Push Coalition Founder and President Jesse Jackson, everyone has a responsibility to appreciate the struggle of those that came before them.

"If young people don't appreciate the Civil Rights Movement, it's their parents' fault," Jackson says. "Young people can go to any public park or library they want to go to—that's the Civil Rights Movement. Young women can't be denied athletic scholarships—that's the Civil Rights Movement. Blacks can vote—that's the Civil Rights Movement. It's a bit absurd for one to say they don't know about the Civil Rights Movement. You ought to know."

Bond says parents are not the only culprit:

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Friends fete veteran pol

By Lés Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

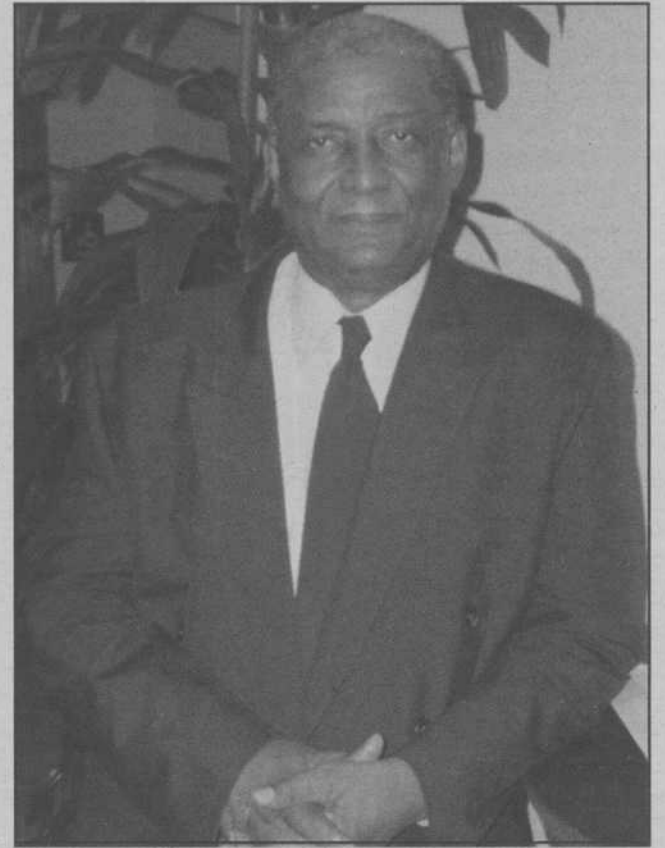
Hundreds of friends, supporters, community members, and the family of retiring District 4 State Senator Joe Neal (D), came together on Friday at Nevada Partners to pay tribute to an icon in this community celebrating his 32 years of service. The event was sponsored by the Black Elected Officials of Southern Nevada to give thanks for Neal's hard work and tireless efforts throughout the years by as he represented people usually ignored or disenfranchised by the political process.

Neal was born on July 28, 1935, in Mounds, Louisiana. He was elected to office in 1973 and served 14 regular sessions of the Senate. Neal completed 32 years of service in the Senate, shared the distinction of serving the longest tenure in the senate with William J. Raggio (R)

from Washoe County, and tied in third place with Raggio for the longest tenure in the state legislature.

Neal was a member of the Finance Committee from 1985-86, Assistant Majority Floor Leader in 1985, Assistant Minority Floor Leader in 1987, Minority Floor Leader of the regular session in 1989, President Pro Tempore in 1991, and member of the Legislative Commission from 1997-98.

Clark County Commissioner Lynette Boggs McDonald (R) District F, delivered the welcome and portrayed Neal as a stalwart individual fighting a noble cause in the best interest of his constituents in her opening remarks. Senator Steven Horsford, newly elected to represent Neal's District 4, talked about Neal's many accomplishments and said he embraces the legacy Neal established and pledged to



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Former North Las Vegas state senator Joseph Neal was the guest of honor at a Friday night Nevada Partners banquet honoring his 32-year political career in in state legislature.

continue the effort.

Throughout the night, many individuals spoke with admiration for the work done by Neal in his years of service and took time to share their thoughts about Neal and what it meant to have someone of his caliber to serve this

community in the political arena.

Las Vegas City Councilman Lawrence Weekly (D) Ward 5 stated: "What an honor for someone to have served so many years in public service... [Neal has made

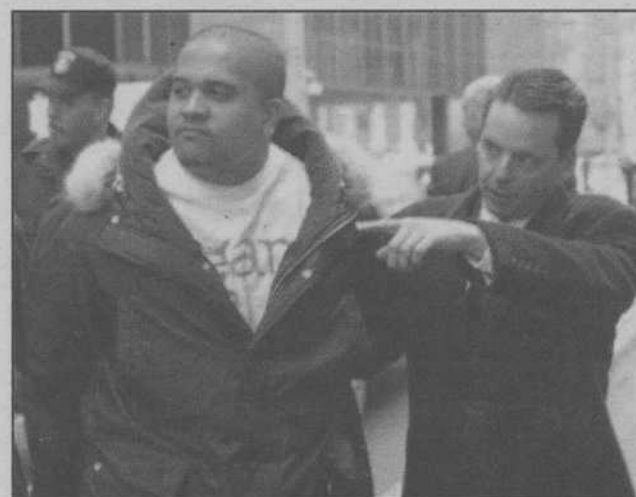
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Rap mogul, drug kingpin surrender

NEW YORK (AP)- The hip-hop label behind music superstars Ashanti and Ja Rule was part of a murderous criminal enterprise that protected its interstate crack and heroin operation with calculated street assassinations, federal authorities charged Wednesday.

Label head Irv "Gotti" Lorenzo and his brother Christopher surrendered to the FBI on money-laundering charges Wednesday as federal prosecutors unsealed an indictment seeking to confiscate Irv Gotti's real estate and business holdings.

Gotti's childhood friend, Kenneth "Supreme" McGriff, one of New York's most notorious drug kingpins, was charged with murder, racketeering and other crimes that prosecutors said were



Irv 'Gotti' Lorenzo, head of The Inc., left, whose flagship artists are Ja Rule and Ashanti, is escorted by police from the FBI office in New York, Wednesday. Lorenzo and his brother Christopher surrendered to the FBI on money-laundering charges as federal prosecutors unsealed an indictment seeking to confiscate the assets of their rap label.

intended to eliminate and intimidate potential witnesses.

McGriff already is in prison on a relatively minor

gun charge.

Prosecutors said McGriff and the Gottis funneled hundreds of thousands of dollars

in McGriff's drug profits through The Inc., a chart-topping label owned partly by Def Jam, a subsidiary of Universal Music.

Recording in a studio dubbed "The Crackhouse," The Inc. has sold about 20 million records behind Ja Rule and Ashanti, who were not charged in the indictment. Ja Rule's current album, "R.U.L.E.," peaked at No. 7 on the Billboard chart. Ashanti is now appearing in the movie "Coach Carter," which debuted atop the box office list two weeks ago.

The charges were not expected to have a major impact on Universal. A source familiar with the Universal/Gotti joint venture said the arrangement would be dissolved if Gotti is convicted.

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