

Neal

(Continued from Page 1) contributions to his community and the whole state] — absolutely phenomenal. I think that it is a blueprint and a roadmap for many of the up-and-coming young elected officials to look at and see that you can make a difference... through perseverance and hard work it all pays off in the end. So, hats off to you, Joe."

Reverend Jesse Scott of Second Baptist Church said: "I met Senator Neal over 40 years ago. He was active with the local branch of the NAACP, and I was a member of the Los Angeles branch 35 years ago before coming to Las Vegas. Since I have been here, we have worked closely together, and we're one with the other in terms of making the city a better place to live. Senator Neal is one of those people who is aware of and concerned with the lifestyle that people live, and he wants to give them a better way to live — regardless of race, color, creed or age... concerned about the general welfare of everyone..."

Horsford commented: "This event is all about recognizing a man who gave 32 years of public service to our community, a man who was always a fighter and a champion for the causes of the little people. It's just a wonderful thing when the community can come together and recognize those who have served. For those of us who are now the younger generation of leadership, it is important to give honor to those who have preceded us and paved the way to make it possible for us to serve."

Others honoring Neal included: Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson-Gates (D) District D; State Senator Bernice Mathews (D) from Northern Nevada; State Senator Dina Titus (D) District 7; Las Vegas Fire Chief Dave Washington; Bob Bailey, long time community activist; Shaundell Newsome, member of the Caucus of African-American Nevadans; Alice Key, long-time friend and political activist; William Robinson (D) North Las Vegas City Councilman; former Las Vegas City Councilman Frank Hawkins; NAACP Las Vegas Chapter President W. Dean Ishman; and Ida Gaines, representative to U.S. Senator Harry Reid. All expressed their congratulations to Neal and bestowed upon him much love and appreciation for all that he has done.

A three minute video pre-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

Clark County commissioners Yvonne Atkinson-Gates and Lynette Boggs-McDonald donned cowboy hats as they salute long-time Senator Joe Neal at Nevada Partners on Friday.

sensation on Neal's life was featured highlighting his many accomplishments and the great many people he affected. Neal received several proclamations and awards acknowledging his commitment to his community and constituents over the years.

In his address to the audience, Neal spoke about his efforts to pass legislation commemorating the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a holiday tribute to him. After many attempts to pass the legislation, the republican leadership acquiesced and granted passage of the bill to prevent Neal from filibustering on the Senate floor. Neal also commented about his challenge and victories won regarding bills involving the gaming industry.

Sharing his thoughts about being recognized by the community and the Black Elected Officials, Neal commented: "Well, I think the tribute is very good, and I appreciate it. The fact that this is being put on by the Black Elected Officials makes me appreciate it even more. When you talk about 32 years, things like the retrofitting bill, dealing with the police problem, addressing a bill outlawing the use of a cake cutter (afrocomb) because some of the people were looking at it as being a weapon, admitting Blacks into the medical school, and, borrowing a phrase from the late Shirley Chisholm, 'being unbought and unbossed' in dealing with people in this state [comes to mind]."

He continued, "When you have issues, you should push forward and address those issues irrespective of what people say. You're there to put things on the agenda, pass laws, introduce legislation — even if you can't get it passed — and, thereby, make people listen to your issues. Many

times you're going to find people who will look up and say that we need to do something about this. This finally did occur with the passage of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. bill. That's what you have to do: be your own person.

"You cannot move society without putting yourself out there.

If you try to go along just to get along, that's all you're going to be.

You'll be out there all alone and not able to do anything. You have to say that this is something that affects me and the people that I represent, and go for it."

Concluding his statement, Neal said, "That's what I've done for the past 32 years; it's not about winning or losing. Sometimes you have to understand that you can win by losing, and understand that about the legislative process."

One of his daughters, Tania Neal Edwards, expressed the family's gratitude for the positive outpouring extended to their father at the event.

She said, "This is a wonderful event. It was more than I had expected. It was a great tribute to my dad and it was long overdue. Congratulations to Senator Horsford and thanks to Michael Chambliss (Executive Director of the Black Elected Officials of Southern Nevada) for putting this on. Words alone can't explain what this means to us. We were blessed to have had a great father and mother; they were a great influence on us and made me the person that I am today. I have gone on to become a physician, accepting challenges, standing on principles, being the strong person that I am, and not allowing anyone to discourage [me]. It's been wonderful. I'm so proud of him. I think he's the greatest."

FCC chairman Powell to step down in March

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush is seeking a successor to Michael K. Powell, whose chairmanship of the Federal Communications Commission has been marked by dramatically increased enforcement of broadcast indecency standards. In an interview Friday, Powell said he decided over the holidays to step down in March after four years as the government's chief communications monitor.

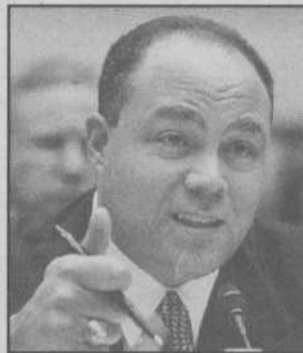
Powell may be best known by the public because of the FCC's harsh response to Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during last year's Super Bowl halftime show. But Powell said he's proud of his efforts to promote new technologies like high-speed Internet access and digital TVs.

"Our principal passion is that we believed we should work hard to get the law right to stimulate innovative technologies that put more power into the hands of consumers," said Powell, son of Secretary of State Colin Powell,

who also is leaving his job. "I felt very comfortable that we achieved most of what we set out to do."

White House spokeswoman Erin Healy praised Powell for a "strong commitment to expand the reach of new communications tech-

The FCC received more than 1 million indecency complaints in 2004, most of them involving the exposure of Jackson's breast during her performance. Fines for indecent programming exceeded \$7.7 million last year, a huge increase from the \$48,000



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Chairman FCC

nologies and services" that promoted the president's goal of affordable high-speed Internet access for all Americans by 2007.

Though he clashed often with the two Democrats on the FCC, all five commissioners have been united in seeking harsher penalties for violations of broadcast indecency standards.

imposed the year before Powell became chairman.

As a result, programmers have become more skittish about what may or may not be construed as too racy. Some networks have started using a broadcast delay on live programs to catch any offensive material before it aired. Last year, 66 ABC af-

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