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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

CAAN Community Awards forum a success

By LÈs Pierres Streater
Sentinel-Voice

More than 200 community supporters gathered on Friday evening at Nevada Partners, located at 710 W. Lake Mead in North Las Vegas, for the first annual awards ceremony held by the Caucus of African-American Nevadans (CAAN) Political Action Committee in commemoration of Black History Month and to pay tribute to several local African-Americans who have made a difference in the local community.

The celebration also featured a legislative panel discussion with State Senator Steven Horsford (D-4), Assemblymen Morse Arberry (D-7), Kelvin Atkinson (D-17) and Harvey Munford (D-6). The legislative panel discussion, moderated by Rose McKinney-James and Patricia Cunningham, also featured a question and answer forum for the community attending the affair.



Famed boxing referee Richard Steele accepts his 2005 Pioneer Award from the Caucus of African American of Nevadans on Friday at the Nevada Partners facility.

The honorary host, Clark County Commissioner Lynette Boggs McDonald, chaired the event and Lillian McMorris served as the Mistress of Ceremony.

Dr. Robert E. Fowler Sr., President of CAAN and pastor of Victory Missionary Baptist Church, spoke about the meaning of the event and CAAN's role in shaping public policy through its power to support, endorse and monitor elected and appointed officials who have the ability to determine the future of the community.

"Tonight is an opportunity for us to say congratulations to African-Americans all over this country... more importantly, to those within our community that we can highlight [for making] a significant impact in our neighborhoods and in our society here in Las Vegas," Fowler explained.

"[They each] represent individually what we are trying to be collectively... people who

understand how to live, themselves, in a proper way, and can make a contribution back to the community so that the community can be one, where all of us can experience the best of life, the best of health, and the best of our pursuit of happiness," Fowler said.

Concluding his remarks, Fowler echoed a goal:

"CAAN is a political action committee (PAC) that is involved, seeking to make change in the community by bringing together our collective influences so that we can have some impact with our political and governmental leaders of our city, county and state to move things in a positive way for people of color and the entire community," he said.

Richard Steele was one of two individuals who received a Pioneer Award. He was recognized for his contributions as a boxing

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High court halts juvenile death penalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — A closely divided Supreme Court outlawed the death penalty for juvenile criminals on Tuesday, declaring there was a national consensus such executions were unconstitutionally cruel and ending a practice that had brought international condemnation.

The 5-4 decision, which overturns a 1989 high court ruling, throws out the death sentences of 72 murderers who committed their crimes as juveniles and bars states from seeking to execute others. Nineteen states had allowed death sentences for killers who committed their

crimes when they were under 18.

The ruling was greeted with enthusiasm by numerous death penalty opponents, here and abroad.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing for the majority, said many juveniles lack maturity and intellectual development

to understand the ramifications of their actions.

"The age of 18 is the point where society draws the line for many purposes between childhood and adulthood. It is, we conclude, the age at which the line for death eligibility ought to rest," Kennedy said.

The United States has stood almost alone in the world in officially sanctioning juvenile executions, a "stark reality" that can't be ignored, Kennedy wrote. Juvenile offenders have been put to death in recent years in only a few other countries, including Iran, Pakistan,

China and Saudi Arabia.

"It is proper that we acknowledge the overwhelming weight of international opinion against the juvenile death penalty, resting in large part on the understanding that the instability and emotional imbalance of young people

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Activists still marching 40 years after 'Bloody Sunday'

By Hazel Trice Edney

Special to Sentinel-Voice

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — John Lewis will never forget March 7, 1965, which would later become known as "Bloody Sunday." It was the first leg of the 54-mile Selma-to-Montgomery, Ala., march organized to help win passage of a national voting rights law.

As chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Lewis was in front of the line as it formed at Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, snaked through downtown Selma, and proceeded along U.S. 80 en route to the Alabama state capital.

"We were walking in an orderly, peaceful fashion, with no one saying a word," says Lewis. "It was like military discipline, more than 600



"More than anything, you have to have a group of people, dedicated, committed with a made up mind that are prepared, literally, to do the extraordinary."

— Rep. John Lewis
Georgia 5th District

of us walking in twos. We came to the highest point on the [Edmund Pettus] bridge, crossing the Alabama River.

"Down below, we saw a sea of blue — Alabama state troopers. And we continued to walk. And we came within hand distance of the state troopers. And a man identified himself and said, 'I am Major John Cloud of the Alabama State Troopers. This is

an unlawful march. It will not be allowed to continue. I give you three minutes to disperse to your church."

In an interview with the NNPA News Service, Lewis, now a U.S. Congressman from Georgia, recalls what happened next:

"He left. And in a minute and a half, Major John Cloud said, 'Troopers advance.'

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Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice

BOOK(ER) SMART

The Fifth Time is the Charm: Kermit R. Booker recently won his fifth Black History Month quiz bowl. Booker students from left to right _bottom row: Kyri Blalark, Viviana Ramos, Darion Jones, Artrean Ewell, (L to R top row) Gregory Hall, Aziana Murray, James Jones, Kenneth McClair. The LINKS, Inc. and the Clark County Library District sponsored the Sixth Annual African American Jeopardy Bowl Competition, held last Wednesday evening at The West Las Vegas Library Theater. Other schools participating were Wendell P. Williams, Ollie Detwiler and H. P. Fitzgerald elementaries. The win marked Kermit Booker's fifth first-place win in the last six years. Booker teacher/coach Penny Howell Fuller couldn't have been more proud of her students. Booker wagered 11,000 points in the final Jeopardy round to come away victorious.