

# LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

## Watt to crowd: Press on

By Lés Pierres Streater  
Sentinel-Voice

Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Mel Watt told a crowd of nearly 180 during the Caucus of African-American Nevadans inaugural Community Impact Awards Saturday that Black politicians and Black America need to focus on an agenda of empowerment.

Watt keynoted the awards at Caesar's Palace, during which two awards were handed out to locals who've tirelessly served the community.

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Fowler, pastor of Victory Missionary Baptist Church and CAAN president, expressed the theme of the event, telling the audience that leaders are needed in these trying times.

"What I see to be a great need of our day and of our time is leadership. I think that leadership has to come with a sense of structure as well as sensibility," he said. "We need leadership and leaders in these days and time who can produce both heat and light. People that have both passion and the abil-



Sentinel-Voice photo by Lés Pierres Streater

**Congressional Black Caucus chairman and North Carolina Democrat Mel Watt, center, stands with Helen Toland (left) and Ylonda Dickerson, both recipients of civic awards given out by the Caucus of African-American Nevadans, a political action committee.**

ity to bring productivity to some of the concerns of our country...who are able to speak to the intelligent of this world as well as the ignorant individuals of this world."

Fowler continued, "We need people in these days and times and we need leaders in this day and time that are able to grab the attention of both government and the gangs. We need leadership that can write a vision, make it plain, and mobilize troops to move forward to actualize the plan of that particular vision."

The first CAAN Impact Award was given to native Las Vegas Ylonda Dickerson. The Valley High School graduate, who earned a degree from the Community College of Southern Nevada in infant and toddler and preschool childhood education, is majoring in early childhood education at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

As a young mother of five and a grandmother of eight, Dickerson assists young single mothers and fathers

and works to eliminate teen pregnancy through Valley View Community Cares, an organization she founded. Services provided include mentoring, tutoring and skills development for youth. In her position as the parent resource information coordinator for the Sunrise Children's Foundation, Dickerson advocates for parental involvement in children's education. She recently opened a learning

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## Cheney, Rangel in war of words

WASHINGTON (AP) - Vice President Dick Cheney contended Monday that Rep. Charles Rangel, the dean of New York's Congressional delegation, is "losing it" — striking back after months of verbal attacks from the Harlem lawmaker.

Rangel had criticized Cheney in recent interviews, saying the vice president, who has a history of heart trouble, might be too sick to perform his job.

"I would like to believe he's sick rather than just mean and evil," Rangel said last Friday on NY1, the New York City-based all-news channel.

In an interview with nationally syndicated radio host Rush Limbaugh, the 64-year-old Cheney suggested it was the 75-year-old Rangel who may not be up to the demands of his job.

"I'm frankly surprised at his comments. It almost struck me — they were so out of line, it almost struck me that there was some — Charlie was having some problem," said Cheney.

"Charlie is losing it, I guess."

Cheney added to his criticism later in the day in an interview with conservative

radio talk show host Sean Hannity.

"I don't know what I did to offend him, but he's gotten pretty nasty lately... I think Charlie is a lot older than I am, and it shows," said the vice president.

Rangel, the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, is one of Congress' most caustic critics of the Bush administration. He has denounced the administration's handling of the Iraq war, tax policy, and a host of other matters.

Emile Milne, Rangel's spokesman, refused to comment on Cheney's remarks.

Rangel's verbal broadsides on Cheney escalated in late August, when the same local news station asked him if President Bush was spending too much time on vacation.

"Oh no, it makes the country a lot more safe," Rangel said. "The further Bush is away from Washington, the better it is. And sometimes I don't think even Cheney is awake enough to know what's going on."

Cheney, 64, has had four heart attacks, quadruple bypass surgery, two artery-clearing angioplasties and a pacemaker put in his chest.

## Tribute, documentary to honor gaming pioneer Preddy

By Parker Philpot  
Sentinel-Voice

Timed to coincide with the Las Vegas Centennial Celebration, a tribute to Las Vegas gaming pioneer Sarann Knight Preddy is slated for Wednesday evening at the Orleans Hotel and Casino showroom, 4500 W. Tropicana Ave.

The first African-American and woman of color in Nevada to hold a non-restricted gaming license, Preddy is also thought to be the only African-American woman anywhere to hold this distinction. During more than 50 years in business, she built an equally stellar reputation as a civic leader.

All her accomplishments, in business and in the community, will be on display during Wednesday night's premiere of a documentary on her life and a tribute hosted by the Las Vegas Music Association and the American Museum of Music and Entertainment.

Lou Ragland, producer of the video documentary, says it contains comments from a host of entertainers and a collection of her photo memorabilia, featuring local celebrities and notable visitors to Las Vegas.

Ragland is chairman of the Board of the Las Vegas Music Association. Established in 1988, the association promotes live music and assists musicians and music lovers. It also serves as an industry consultant, fundraiser and job developer for performing artists by producing projects and events.

"Our main thrust is to eventually open a museum of music and entertainment in the [Historic] Westside community near downtown" Ragland said. He said they also hope to have other venues in the city for live music and collections of memorabilia.

Ragland's interest in Preddy's life story began more than 15 years ago — before he'd even met her. "I've been trying [to do this



Sarann Knight Preddy

story] for 17 years," he said. After he and Preddy met, they formed a partnership, Synergia Productions.

At the time, Preddy, who said she never planned a documentary, had been developing a book with the help of a local writer.

"Dianna [Saffold] and I have been writing a book for some time... but when you're living, you're not in a hurry because things are still happening," Preddy said. "Lou [Ragland] said he wanted to do a documentary and it would be done quicker than the book...we talked about it for some time."

Preddy said she is pleased about the event and the premiere but couldn't comment on the documentary itself.

"I haven't seen it yet," she said. "I do want to see it," noting that she'll probably preview it on Friday.

Preddy recalled for the *Sentinel-Voice* a  
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