

Joyner's Foundation received Friend of Education Award

WASHINGTON—Radio listeners across the country know Tom Joyner for his ability to generate belly-aching laughter on his daily morning show. Education, however, is no laughing matter to this radio personality. For his constant commitment and dedication to quality public schools, the National Education Association is awarding the Tom Joyner Foundation its 2006 Friend of Education Award.

The Friend of Education Award is NEA's highest honor, and recognizes a person or organization whose leadership, acts or support have significantly contributed to the improvement of American public education. The award is presented each year during NEA's Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly.

This year, it was held in Orlando, Fla. from last Friday, through Wednesday.

More than 9,000 delegates debated and voted on critical issues facing public education.

"Tom Joyner is dedicated to giving back to the community and improving the lives of students," said Reg Weaver, NEA president.

"He strikes a balance of entertaining and educating on his morning show, but that desire to inform resonates beyond the airwaves. He does this not because he has

to, but because he cares. Students and educators across the country are the beneficiaries of his kindness."

The Tom Joyner Foundation was established in 1998 for the purpose of helping students continue their education at Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the nation. The foundation has raised more than \$35 million to date for this single cause.

In January 2005, NEA and the Tom Joyner Foundation began a partnership to help minority teachers become fully certified. Funded by the foundation, the program pays for examination fees and offers specialized workshops, coursework, materials and individual tutoring.

"We started this foundation for the sole purpose of helping students to stay in school," said Joyner, whose nationally syndicated four-hour, drive-time radio show is the nation's leading morn-

ing entertainment show. "We've never lost sight of that goal, as well as the need to make sure that teachers have the skills they need to prepare our students to help them pursue their dreams."

Previous Friend of Education Award recipients include former Presidents Lyndon B.

Johnson, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton; Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; former NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins; U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley; Senators Edward Kennedy and Hillary Rodham Clinton; and the late Christa McAuliffe.

Titus

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can elect someone who will work towards diversity in Nevada, to reflect all minorities," Stokes told the audience.

He stated that Democratic Assembly members Kelvin Atkinson and William Horne could not attend but are publicly endorsing Titus.

Before the conference, Neal told the *Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice*: "I support Senator Titus, and I am grateful she is running. She will do justice to our state as its governor. She has a real affinity with the people."

Fowler, pastor of Victory Missionary Baptist Church, said, "I believe Senator Titus has a record from the past that stands. I believe she has a program for today and a promise for the future, which is why I believe we should support her. She has walked and worked hand in hand with all members of our state, leaving no one out."

Mumford said, "I am looking forward to working with Senator Titus. In fact, I will be holding a fundraising reception to benefit her campaign... We still have problems in this district, but I know with Senator Titus as governor, we can work on changing that."

Gates introduced Titus as the state's "first female governor" and said, "It's about time we have a woman as governor."

Gates listed four reasons why she believed that Titus would be a good governor: her long political history in Nevada, her background in education, her understanding of the issues in the African-American and other minority communities and her prior record in improving all areas in the State of Nevada.

To a round of applause, Titus told the audience, "I am so humbled by this and so hon-

ored to stand under this statue [of Martin Luther King]."

She spoke of her acquaintance with Senator Neal for over 16 years and said Commissioner Gates was a student in her classroom 30 years ago. "I will be coming to all of these leaders for advice."

Titus said her legislative work on equality issues would continue as governor. "The gap between those who have and those who don't is getting bigger and bigger. Those are issues that we need to address," Titus said.

"I'm proud of my record — pushing for a minority health office, pushing against the problems that we've had with racial profiling, calling for more equality in employment, and calling for more contracts here at home with minority businesses."

She continued, "Don't just be with me today, be with me for good, because I will be there with you for good."

She laughed when she said, "It's not the same good ol' boys. It's a new day."

Titus said she would narrow the gap between the haves and the have-nots by pushing for all-day kindergarten, apprenticeship programs and better-paying jobs.

Titus said she wants to see appointment of a "faith-based officer in the Governor's office" to pursue "federal funding" to build housing for seniors and provide meals for shut-ins.

Reverend Jesse Scott of Second Baptist Church in West Las Vegas and Pastor Ron Thomas of Reconciliation Apostolic Ministries, respectively, led opening and closing prayers.

Thomas said, "It is a good day to support this candidate."



Sentinel-Voice photo by Ramon Savoy

Cordell Stokes, CEO of W.I.N.G.S., Inc., speaks to the press on Monday in support of gubernatorial candidate Dina Titus, left, who has garnered support from Black leaders.

Congress

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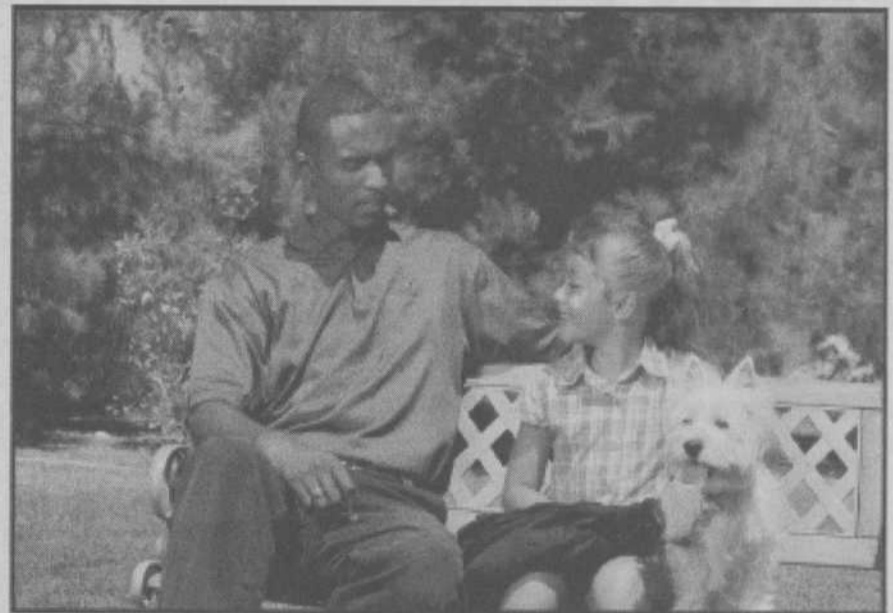
The Southern Republicans who object to extending the Voting Rights Act say it unfairly singles out the South, a region that has made major improvements since the law was first passed in 1965.

As part of its mobilization effort, the NAACP is conducting a petition drive. One of its observations: "As more than 18 extensive hearings in the House and Senate, which received more than 12,000 pages of testimony have shown, however, there are some states, local municipalities and jurisdictions that have proven records of discrimination and are still trying to use official means to discourage racial and ethnic minority Americans from registering and voting."

Morial said the arguments of the GOP detractors have a familiar ring.

He said, "They are 40-year-old objections wrapped in 21st century rhetoric."

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The Department of Energy is preparing an application to construct a high-level nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain, Nevada, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas. To learn about this important national issue and its potential local effects, visit the Clark County Nuclear Waste Program Web site for impact studies, informational podcasts, links and much more.

Find out more about Yucca Mountain:



Visit the Clark County Nuclear Waste Division web site at: www.accessclarkcounty.com

Link: comprehensive_planning/YuccaMountainPodcast.htm