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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Trumpets Awards triumph in Vegas

By Margo Williams
Special to Sentinel-Voice

For the first time, the star-studded, Trumpet Awards came to Las Vegas. The event, which is usually held in its Atlanta, Ga. birthplace, is one of the nation's most respected awards ceremonies.

Over the four-day series of events, homage is paid to honorees in diverse fields — law, politics, medicine, business, sports and entertainment. Ten recipients received the trumpet-shaped major award. Many others received high honors and special achievement awards.

The black-tie closing ceremony, presented by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, was held at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino on Monday evening.

The 15th annual event continues to symbolize the many Black Americans who have overcome the ills of racism and poverty, succeeding against all odds. Recipients

are role models who have contributed to enhancing the quality of life for African-Americans and others.

"The Trumpet Awards is not just an evening of glamour and glitz. The Trumpet Awards sends a message across America and abroad that African-Americans have much to be proud of," said Founder and Executive Producer Xernona Clayton.

The awards program was originally presented in 1993 and sponsored by Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting with a five-year, \$5 million commitment when Clayton was the highest-ranking African-American at CNN.

Over 2,000 guests from around the world attended this year's multiple-day event co-sponsored by MGM Mirage. Activities included the Black Cultural Explosion, featuring Will Downing and professional performers from all over the U.S., and the Prayer Breakfast. An awards brunch titled "High

Heels in High Places" saluted successful African-American women nationwide.

Women of Achievement honors went to several locals: Las Vegas Justice Karen Bennett, Clark County Commissioner Yvonne Atkinson Gates, Jacquelyn Shropshire of the Las Vegas-Clark County Urban League and U.S. 9th District Court Justice Johnnie B. Rawlinson, among others.

Nevada State Senator Steven Horsford also participated in the awards presentations. Hill Harper, co-star of TV show "CSI," was emcee for the awards night ceremony and received the Usher Raymond Altruism special award.

With red and gold trumpets decorating the background, the main awards ceremony opened with African dancers with bodies like ebony gods. Their movements kept the audience spellbound as they performed a selection from "Zumanity," a Cirque du Soleil show on the Las Vegas Strip where they perform.

The Trumpet and other awards were given to many famous honorees and the not-so-famous, of all ages.

A perfect example of the latter is Orok Duke, who was presented with the Young Star special award. The 27-year-old chemical engineer



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

Held for the first time in Las Vegas, the Atlanta-based Trumpet Awards drew a throng of A-list dignitaries at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino. Trumpet honorees included icons John Carlos, left, and Tommie Smith, 1968 Olympic track stars, who took a pro-Black, raised-fist stance at the podium. (More Trumpet Awards photos Page 6).

from Chicago developed new wastewater technology used at manufacturing plants in Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea and the U.S. His mother came all the way from Nigeria, West Africa, to attend the program.

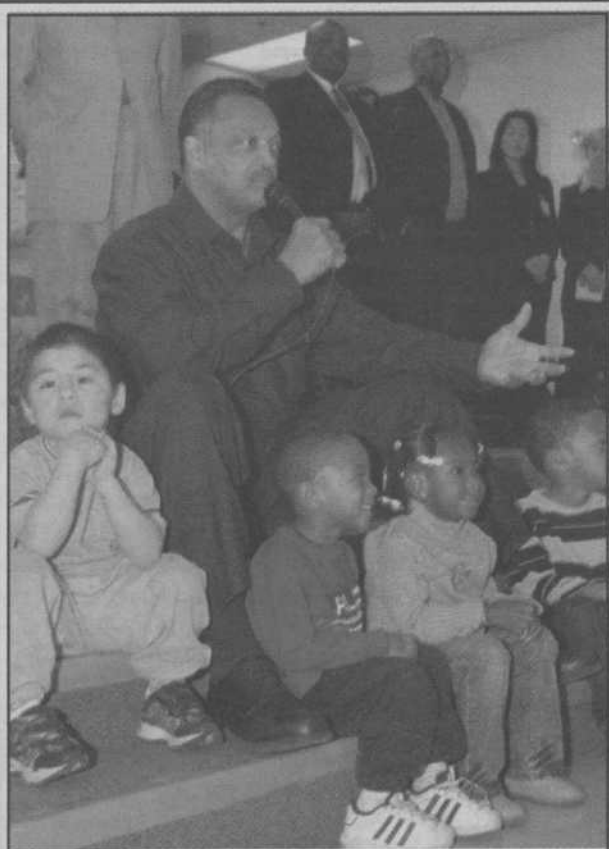
A world-renown sculptor from Atlanta, Ed Dwight, received a Trumpet award in the field of art. Dwight has created over 12,000 sculptures and was commissioned to produce the largest memo-

rial to African-Americans in history. The 90 ft. long Black Revolutionary War Patriots Memorial will be installed in Washington, D.C., on the National Mall next to the World War II Memorial.

New York attorney and media mogul Percy Sutton was cheered for his ongoing work as he received the coveted Trumpet Pinnacle award for business achievements. One of 15 children, he supported himself doing odd

jobs, attended three campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and he served in the New York legislature for 11 years. Sutton purchased the landmark Apollo Theatre in Harlem and produced the successful TV amateur show, "It's Showtime at the Apollo."

Sutton has received more than 14 honorary degrees and the NAACP's highest award, (See Trumpet, Page 4)



Sentinel-Voice photo by John Broussard

TEACH AND PREACH

Civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., surrounded by attentive young people and dignitaries, talks about human rights at Wendell P. Williams Elementary School recently. Jackson was in town to launch efforts to establish a local Rainbow/Push Coalition chapter.

Activist's wife touts King's life

By Kanika Vann
Special to Sentinel-Voice

It was with wisdom and deep-seated conviction that Myrlie Evers-Williams spoke to an audience of about 200 at UNLV's Cox Pavilion on Saturday. She is an author, former chair of the NAACP, and best known as the widow of slain civil rights pioneer, Medgar Evers.

She was the featured speaker at the third annual celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hosted by the UNLV Chapter and Las Vegas Branch of the NAACP,

"Dr. King would tell us, if they won't let us be presidents and CEO's, we must work harder to achieve the goals ourselves. We must take control of our lives."

— Myrlie Evers-Williams



along with the Office of Diversity Programs and Services at UNLV, co-sponsored by the MGM Mirage and the

Las Vegas Urban Chamber of Commerce.

"I'm here to discuss the significance of Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr., his legacy, his wisdom, his hope, his dream, and where it has led his people," said Evers-Williams. Along with Dr. King's dream, she shared her own hopes and expectations for African-American youth and the reality of their true social and cultural positions in America.

"Young people, you have more opportunities than your parents and grandparents ever had, but you likely never had to fight for them, so you take them for granted. I say (See Evers, Page 2)