

Obama could learn about Black males from NFL

By Harry C. Alford
Special to Sentinel-Voice

This past weekend many of us watched the 2008 induction ceremony for the National Football League Hall of Fame. It's an annual event and it gives the highest recognition to the best players who have ever played this fantastic game. As I watched it with great enjoyment, I remembered that outrageous, stereotypical claim made on Fathers' Day by Senator Barack Obama.

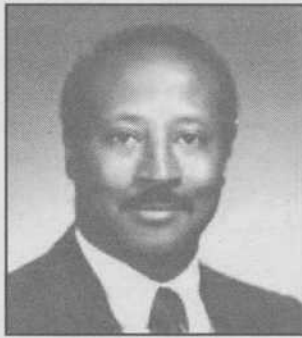
He wrongly admonished African-American males as if we were the sole blame for the social and economic ills of Black America. He was wrong, ill advised and damaging in the way he was trying to portray us.

In a previous article I suggested he get better educated on the matter. I think watching the Hall of Fame Induction would be most beneficial for him. If he didn't see it, he should certainly get a tape of it. In fact, he should visit the NFL Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio as soon as he can. He would probably come out with a different perspective on African-American males.

Currently, 80 percent of the starting players in the NFL are African-Americans. The representation in the Hall of Fame is becoming quite indicative of that fact. With each inductee is a story of courage, winning against the odds and extreme adversity. The overwhelming majorities are husbands; fathers and sons who chose to embrace the power of family and live a life of morality, integrity and leadership. Testimony to that fact is given by their family members, associates, mentors and lifelong friends. It is not just athletic prowess that gets you into the Hall of Fame. It is superb citizenship and a strong example of social decency. This group is Americana at its best. They are valuable members to society and add to the strength of our society. They are "Men Supreme" and with that comes fatherhood — faith to their spouses, love, protection and nurturing to their children.

Sen. Obama, the majority of these great men are Black and they are, indeed, good fathers. Let's look at the five of six inductees for this year who were by the way African-American.

Andre Tippett played his career for the New England Patriots as a linebacker. His mother raised him and his



HARRY C. ALFORD

seven siblings under poverty in Birmingham, Ala., and they later moved with nothing but the clothes on their backs to Newark, N.J. There he was, this giant of a man, being honored for his fatherhood, leadership and excellence. Cheering him on was his son, three daughters and wife. There must have been close to one hundred family members present honoring their Family Patriarch. His mother had the proudest smile.

Then came the great cornerback for the Kansas City Chiefs, Emmitt Thomas. Senator Obama, guess who introduced him? It was his son, Derek Thomas. Emmitt had it rough growing up in little Angleton, Texas, as his mother died when he was 8 years old.

It didn't stop his family from raising him up and his recognizing that fatherhood is a blessed thing that should be cherished. You could see his standards and accomplishments through the articulate manner his son exemplified. He loves his daddy immensely.

The third Black man to be inducted was big Fred Dean.

Fred grew up in Ruston, La. from a tight knit family which is still led by his father who is now 88 years old. Growing up on that Louisiana red clay did Fred much good. As a defensive end, he led the San Francisco 49ers to two super bowls all the while being the chief financial benefactor for his expansive family. His wife and children glowed as he was inducted.

The "Fastest Man in Football" was next. It was the prolific cornerback Darrell Green. He was only 173 pounds, but was fierce and undeniable during his tenure with the Washington Redskins.

Introducing Darrell was his proud son, Jared. Jared said that his father was his "provider, protector and a teacher about morals and integrity and I love him so." Darrell took to the podium and acknowledged his fine son.

Also, he addressed his three daughters and lovely wife while he proudly proclaimed his 23 years of faithfulness to her. Oh, it was a proud day for Black fatherhood Senator!

The last Black inductee was the ultimate Washington Redskins wide receiver Art Monk. Introducing him was James Arthur Monk Jr. — his articulate son. His son stated in the introduction, "I want to tell you how great a man he is outside of being a football player. I'm so proud to be living a life of 'me and dad'."

In addition, his wife of 26 years and three daughters also glowed throughout the ceremony. He drew the big-

gest ovation.

Senator Obama, Black manhood and fatherhood are alive and well.

Harry C. Alford is the co-founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce.

LEGAL NOTICES

Perini Building Company, Inc.

Request sub bids and material quotations from ALL qualified subcontractors and suppliers including MBE, DBE, WBE, SBE, SBDE and SMBE for the following project:

**McCarran International Airport, Las Vegas, Nevada
Terminal 3 Garage, Contract No. 2271
Bid Date: August 26, 2008 @ 1:30 PM**

Please Contact:
PERINI BUILDING COMPANY, INC.
Attn: Rich Gohl
360 East Coronado Road, Phoenix, AZ 85004
Nevada License #0018335 & 00004382
(602) 256-6777 (Telephone)
(602) 495-3301 (FAX)

WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — August 7, 2008

Gothic Landscaping Inc.

Request Sub Bids and Material Quotations from ALL qualified subcontractors and suppliers including MBE, DBE, WBE, DVBE, SBE, SBDE & SMBE on the following project:

OWNER	PROJECT	BID DATE	BID TIME
City of Henderson	Cactus Wren Trail Contract No.: 131-08-PR-144-001 PWP Number CL-2008-279	08/14/08	9:00 AM

Please Contact:
Gothic Landscaping, Inc.
Ray Hoffman

4565 West Nevso Drive • Las Vegas, Nevada 89103
Phone (702) 252-7017 • Fax (661) 702-8273

NV Lic. #0050633 A - GENERAL ENGINEERING "Unlimited"

Published Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — August 7, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Housing Authority of the County of Clark, NV
5390 East Flamingo Rd, Las Vegas, NV 89122
Phone (702) 451-8041 – TDD (702) 433-1472
www.haccnv.org

EFFECTIVE AUGUST 8, 2008

We are accepting applications for the following programs and bedroom sizes:

CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING

4 bedroom units

LANDSMAN GARDENS

4 and 5 bedroom units

HAMPTON COURT

1, 2 and 3 bedroom units

BROWN HOMES

1, 2 and 3 bedroom units

The following programs and bedroom sizes remain closed:

PALO VERDE – 1-bedroom units

ESPINOZA TERRACE – 1 and 2 bedroom units

SCHAFFER HEIGHTS – 1 and 2 bedroom units

CONVENTIONAL PUBLIC HOUSING – 2 and 3 bedroom units

LANDSMAN GARDENS – 2 and 3 bedroom units

The Housing Authority of the County of Clark, NV, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status or national origin

Equal Housing Opportunity

LEGAL NOTICES

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PREQUALIFICATION/ON-CALL SOLICITATION NOTICE

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) is requesting Prequalification submittals from consulting firms and is also requesting submittals for the 2009-2010 On-Call Program. For the purpose of soliciting proposals in accordance with 23CFR172, entitled "Administration of Related Service Contracts", the NDOT maintains lists of responsible prequalified firms that possess the ability to successfully perform needed services.

Solicitation for Prequalification is an annual solicitation and has no cutoff date for submissions. The NDOT is always open to receipt of Prequalification statements from interested firms. **If you are currently prequalified, you MUST renew at this time. The current Prequalification period expires on December 31, 2008.**

Solicitation for the On-Call Program is a biennial solicitation and **DOES** have a cutoff time/date of **5:00 PM, Tuesday, September 30, 2008.** All submittals are required by this deadline.

The "On-Call" Program is not meant to be interpreted as a promise of work. It is a program to facilitate the acquisition process should the need arise to use consultant services which fall within one of the designated disciplines.

If your firm is interested in offering its services for either the Prequalification or On-Call Program, please visit our website at www.nevadadot.com or contact Agreement Services at (775) 888-7070 or FAX (775) 888-7101 to obtain detailed information on submittal requirements and a list of the Prequalification and On-Call disciplines. All necessary forms for submittal can be found on the website. Please reference all communication regarding this notice with "2009-2010 Prequalification/On-Call"

Susan Martinovich, P.E., DIRECTOR
Nevada Department of Transportation

Published: Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice — August 7, 2008