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"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

RNC gets first Black top guy

By Alan King
Special to Sentinel-Voice

BALTIMORE (NNPA) — Defeating the incumbent party chief and three other challengers after six rounds of balloting, former Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele was elected to chair the Republican National Committee (RNC), becoming the first African-American to lead the GOP.

Steele takes over a beleaguered GOP as Republicans seek to rebound from back-to-back defeats in national elections that gave Democrats control of Congress and the White House.

The *Washington Post* reported that the decision came after a series of ballots that displayed a level of drama rarely seen in national politics.

With the historic election of President Barack Obama serving as the first Black president in America, the *Los Angeles Times* reported the move as an interesting play (See Steele, Page 4)

Walk of Fame grows by 13

By Yussuf Simmonds
Special to Sentinel-Voice

LOS ANGELES (NNPA) — The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame recently added a distinguished parade of 13 men and women to its existing roll of honor during the 2009 Annual Trumpet Awards.

The distinguished group was comprised of men and women who have displayed extraordinary courage — often succeeding against tremendous odds — and supreme sacrifice to arrive at their respective positions as revered civil rights icons and leaders in their respective fields. The group consisted of Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., Cathy Hughes, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, Rev. Al



Sentinel-Voice photos by Marty Frierson

Roberto Goizueta, left, takes his place alongside Rev. C.T. Vivian, right, as two of the 13 new inductees to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta, Ga. recently.

Sharpton, Rev. C.T. Vivian, Dr. Erika Bennett, Roberto Goizueta, The Links, Incorporated, the Honorable Sam Massell, the Honorable Ernest N. Morial, Father Michael L. Pflieger, former Congressman William L. Clay Sr. and Rev. C.M. Alexander.

Now in its sixth year, the ICRWF was created and designed by Xernona Clayton to pay homage to the brave warriors of justice who sacrifice and struggle to seek justice for others and to give them a semblance of the true recognition they rightly deserve.

It has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in Atlanta and has enriched the heritage of the Civil Rights Movement.

Displaying the shoes and their imprints of well-known civil rights heroes, the ICRWF is a lasting memorial that literally explains the path traveled by those whose contributions have made it possible to enjoy a better quality of life and attain a more equitable measure of justice. They are called "foot soldiers" in the struggle for justice and Clayton has stated, "This is a permanent testimony to those who have dedicated themselves to human progress."

As is the custom, the induction ceremony is held at the Ebenezer Baptist Church (where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. preached) and near the King National Historic Site. The walk is a partnership between the Trumpet

Awards Foundation and the National Park Service. And according to Clayton, the roll of honorees is growing year by year and others will be added to the walk.

Yussuf Simmonds writes for the *Los Angeles Sentinel*.

Are Blacks expecting too much from White House

By Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice

"Hello. My name is Freida. I am a 52 years young Black female that had 3 strokes and [I am] doing fine right now. I am a full time stay at home artist... I have sent you a copy of my hero, Sir Barackster. I created him on Nov. 1st because I felt he would be the hero."

Those are the words of Freida Thompson of Manalapan, N.J., in a letter to the editor of the NNPA News Service.

"I really, really, really want him to take care of the health issue," Thompson said in a phone interview this week. "Medicaid, even social security, I don't think that's really enough money to live off of... I've got five prescriptions I've got to get. It's just not enough," said Thompson. If there was one thing she would ask of President Obama, it would be "free health care."

From health care to civil rights, jobs and equal justice, Thompson's sentiments reflect those of millions of Blacks — and other Americans — around the nation who

know that Obama — arguably America's most inspirational president — will be limited in his ability to do everything. Yet, many hope that because of his Black experience and identification with struggle, his priorities

might distinguish him from White presidents of the past.

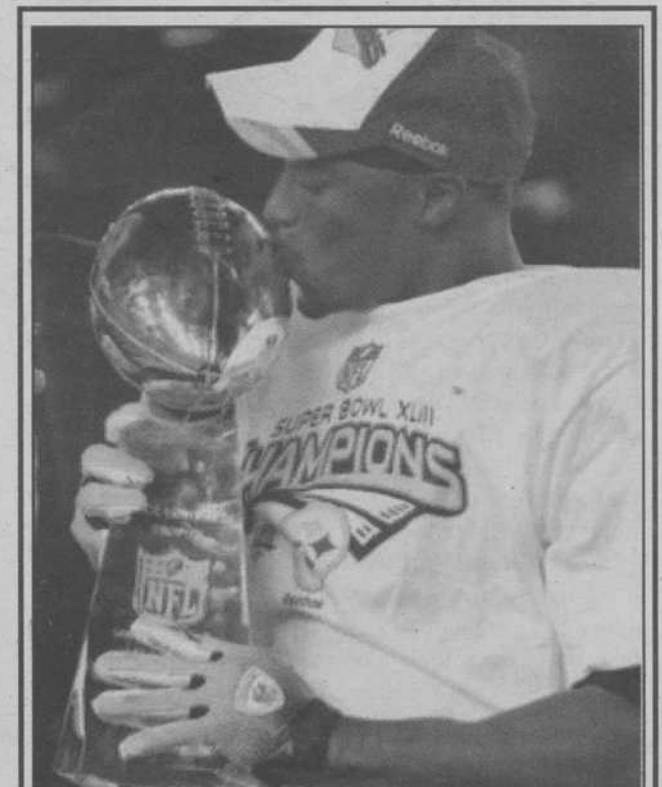
Are Blacks expecting too much of the new president? That depends on who's being asked:

"Expecting a lot from him (See Expectation, Page 2)



Sentinel-Voice photo by Freida Thompson

Freida Thompson's drawing of President Barack Obama as "Sir Barackster." But many people have been wondering if Blacks are expecting too much from the new president?



SILVER (TROPHY) LINING

Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes, named Super Bowl XLIII's Most Valuable Player, kisses the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Steelers won 27-23 over the Arizona Cardinals in the NFL's Super Bowl XLIII football game in Tampa, Florida on Sunday.