

# Johnson

(Continued from Page 12) and the White House declined to comment on this latest Johnson pardon effort.

However, the idea has a passionate supporter in McCain, who has repeatedly said he was wrong in 1983 when he voted against a federal holiday in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

"It's just one of those things that you don't want to quit until you see justice," McCain said of Johnson's case. "We won't quit until we win. And I believe that enough members, if you show them the merits of this issues, that we'll get the kind of support we need."

Johnson won the world heavyweight title on Dec. 26, 1908, after police in Australia stopped his 14-round match against the severely battered Canadian world champion, Tommy Burns. That led to a search for a "Great White Hope" who could beat Johnson. Two years later, the American world titleholder Johnson had tried for years to fight, Jim Jeffries, came out of retirement but lost in a match called "The Battle of the Century," resulting in deadly riots.

Johnson lost the heavyweight title to Jess Willard in 1915.

In 1913, Johnson was convicted of violating the Mann Act, which outlawed transporting women across state lines for immoral purposes. The law has since been heavily amended, but has not been repealed.

Authorities first targeted Johnson's relationship with a White woman who later became his wife, then found another White woman to testify against him. Johnson fled the country after his conviction, but agreed years later to return and serve a 10-month jail sentence. He tried to renew his boxing career after leaving prison, but failed to regain his title. He died in a car crash in 1946 at age 68.

"When we couldn't beat him in the ring, the White power establishment decided to beat him in the courts," Burns told the AP in a telephone interview. Burns' 2005 documentary, "Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson," examined Johnson's case and the sentencing judge's admitted desire to "send a message" to Black men about relationships with White women.

Both McCain and King said a pardon, particularly one from Obama, would carry important symbolism.

In this 1932 file photo, boxer Jack Johnson is shown working out in New York City at the age of 54. Johnson spent nearly a year in prison for violating the Mann Act.



"It would be indicative of the distance we've come, and also indicative of the distance we still have to go," McCain said.

Burns, however, sees a pardon more as "just a question of justice, which is not only blind, but color blind," adding, "And I think it absolutely does not have anything to do with the symbolism of an African-American president pardoning an African-American unjustly accused."

Burns helped form the Committee to Pardon Jack Johnson, which filed a petition with the Justice Department in 2004 that was never acted on. Burns said he spoke about the petition a couple of times with Bush, who as governor of Johnson's home state of Texas proclaimed Johnson's birthday as "Jack Johnson Day" for five straight years.

Bush gave Burns a phone number which led to adviser Karl Rove, Burns said, but Rove told him a pardon "ain't gonna fly."

Rove doesn't recall any

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such conversation with Burns, his spokeswoman Sheena Tahilramani said, and "if he had been approached, he wouldn't have offered an opinion."

## LEGAL NOTICES

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) NO. 09-077 VOICE TALENT FOR TRANSIT VEHICLE ANNUNCIATOR SYSTEM

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is seeking proposals from qualified firms for professional male and female voice talent to record and update public announcement recording scripts on the automated annunciator system operated by the RTC in accordance with the terms and conditions of Request for Proposals No. 09-077.

Request for Proposals No. 09-077 packages will be available beginning Tuesday, April 7, 2009, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the RTC's Administration Building, First Floor Reception Desk, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106. Requests for proposal packages should be directed to the attention of Debra Coleman, Purchasing and Contracts Analyst by email at colemand@rtcsonv.com, or fax 702-676-1588.

PREBID CONFERENCE: A Pre-Bid conference will be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, 1:00 p.m. at the RTC's Administration Building, Conference Room 296, 600 S. Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89106. The purpose of this conference is to review and discuss the specifications of this project.

Proposals shall be received on or before Wednesday, April 29, 2009. Proposals must be time stamped no later than 3:00 p.m., PST, on the due date. Proposals time stamped at 3:01 p.m. or after on the due date will be returned unopened. Proposals must be sent to:

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada  
Attention: Debra Coleman, C.P.M., Purchasing and Contracts Analyst  
600 S. Grand Central Parkway  
Las Vegas, NV 89106

The successful proponent shall cooperate with the RTC in meeting its commitments and objectives with regard to ensuring non-discrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT assisted contracts and shall use its best efforts to ensure that barriers to participation of DBEs do not exist.

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# NFL

(Continued from Page 2) the final moments of 45-year-old Jonetta Collinsworth's life. She died from cancer before Moats got there, while Powell wrote the player a ticket and lectured him.

"I can screw you over," Powell, 25, can be heard saying on the video. "I'd rather not do that. Your attitude will dictate everything that happens." As they argued, the officer got irritated. "Shut your mouth," Powell said. "You can either settle down and cooperate or I can just take you to jail for running a red light."

Powell later issued an apology. Moats' agent, Jordan Woy, said the couple has accepted the apology and will meet with Powell because he wanted to apologize in person. Woy said in an e-mail

Wednesday that they'll meet so "the matter can be finalized and everyone can have closure to this situation."

Powell said he wants the meeting "to personally express my deep regret, sympathy, and to apologize for my poor judgment and unprofessional conduct." He also said he wants to apologize to his fellow officers.

A call to Dallas police was not immediately returned Wednesday.

In the video, Tamishia Moats and another woman disregarded Powell's order to get back inside their vehicle, and they rushed into the hospital. Powell yelled at Tamishia Moats to stay in the SUV.

"Excuse me, my mom is dying," Tamishia Moats said before going into the hospital. "Do you understand?"

She was by the side of her mother when Collinsworth

died a short time later.

Moats explained that he had waited until there was no traffic before continuing through the red light. When Powell asked for proof of insurance, Moats grew more agitated and told the officer to go find it.

Police said the ticket issued to Moats was dismissed. Police Chief Kunkle has apologized to the family over the incident, saying, "When we at the command staff reviewed the tape, we were embarrassed, disappointed."

Bob Gorsky, Powell's attorney, said his client felt it was "time to move on." He said Powell had no immediate employment plans but hopes to return to law enforcement.

"He wanted to keep his job very much, but he considered the toll this story was taking on his family and himself," Gorsky said.

## EMPLOYMENT

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