

McDaniel Featured On Stamp



Los Angeles/CA... Hattie McDaniel, movie actress, singer, radio and television personality, and the first African American to win an Academy Award in 1940 for her role in the 1939 film 'Gone with the Wind' became the 29th honoree in the U.S. Postal Service's long-running Black Heritage commemorative stamp series. The

Hattie McDaniel continued on page 7



☆☆ Founded In 1983 ☆☆

Celebration Of Gospel Special

Los Angeles/CA... Stevie Wonder (right) is among the musical artists BET has gathered for the network's 6th Annual Celebration Of Gospel Special. The telecast (Thurs., Feb. 23, 9p.m. ET/PT on BET) features musical performances from Wonder, Mary Mary, Anthony Hamilton, CeCe Winans, Tyrese, Kirk Franklin, Kelly Price, Donnie McClurkin, Shirley Caesar, Tonex and many more.



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"Like Father Like Son"



Chicago/IL...Earl G. Graves Sr., Founder & Publisher of Black Enterprise, recently named Earl "Butch" Graves Jr. as the company's new Chief Executive Officer and President. Butch Graves' appointment to the rank of CEO marks a milestone for the family-owned media company, whose flagship publication provides more than 3.7 million readers with information on African American business markets, financial management, entrepreneurship, and careers. Earl "Butch" Graves Jr., (seated), Earl G. Graves Sr. (standing) - Photo By Dwight Carter (BE)

A Call For Voting Rights



Washington/DC...A group of leading African American public officials attended the Summit for the National Policy Alliance in Washington, DC, calling for "immediate action" by Federal and local governments to ensure that citizens displaced by Hurricane Katrina can execute their right to vote in elections this year. (Back Row, L-R) Joe Fuller, National Association of Black County Officials; Judge Thelma Wyatt, Cummings Moore, Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; Mary Coleman, National Black Caucus of State Legislators; Mayor Johnny Ford, World Conference of Mayors, Inc.; (Front Row, L-R) Gail Christopher, Joint Center; Mildred Tatum, National Caucus of Black School Board Members; and Linda Haithcox, National Association of Black County Officials. (Robin Weiner/U.S. Newswire)

Dr. Sam Is One Of The Finalists



Springfield/IL...David Sam, Ph.D., (left) is one of three finalists recommended to the Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) Board of Trustees by the college's Presidential Search Committee. Open forums have been scheduled to allow members of the campus community and the public to hear from the candidate and ask questions. A rating sheet will be available to provide feedback on the candidate. Dr. Sam is currently president of North Harris College in Houston, Texas. Prior to that, he was vice president for faculty and instruction at Harrisburg Area Community College (Pennsylvania) for three years. He held a one-year appointment as acting vice president of academic affairs and for two years was dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. LLCC officials hope to have a president appointed and in office prior to the fall 2006 term.

Community Leaders Call For A Town Meeting To...

'Stop The Killing'



In attendance for the announcement of the Town Meeting included (L-R) Donald Kliment, Chief of Police; Kenneth Page, President, Springfield Branch NAACP; Frank McNeil, Alderman, Ward 2; Timothy J. Davlin, Mayor, Springfield, Illinois; T. C. Christian, Jr., Publisher, PURE NEWS USA; Rev. Silas Johnson, President, Baptist Pastor Fellowship; Doris Turner, Sangamon County Board Member, District 19; Judith Johnson, President, Springfield School Board, District 186 and Rev. Wesley McNeese, M.D., President, Ministerial Alliance

Springfield/IL...Community leaders recently met at City Hall to announce plans for a Town Meeting to seek solutions for what they perceive to be a growing violence problem among

Springfield youth. The meeting titled "Stop The Killing," is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. in the Springfield City Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, Municipal Building West.

"We need to establish goals and strategies," said T. C. Christian, Jr., publisher of PURE NEWS USA. "Any time you have open communication, we're going to take advantage of it,"

said Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin. The announcement comes on the heels of a rash of shootings in Springfield, several of which are believed to be gang-related.

Honoring The Legacy Of African American Basketball Pioneers



Lawmakers Honoring African American Basketball Pioneers included Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-MI) and Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). The celebration took place after the recent signing of a bill honoring the lives and legacy of African American basketball pioneers. The bill, introduced by Congresswoman Kilpatrick, also recognizes the impact these players had on the game of basketball and American life. Kilpatrick (2nd from left) and Stabenow (3rd from right) presented a framed copy of the bill to Dr. John Kline (3rd from left), a former Harlem Globetrotter and president of the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation. Other foundation members (L-R) Kara Coates, George Brown, Web Kirksey, Ernest Wagner, and Vertis Zeigler (seated). Photo - Rogers Foster.

Detroit/MI...Congresswoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick and Senator Debbie Stabenow recently celebrated the signing of the bill honoring the lives and legacy of African American basketball pioneers. The bill, introduced by Congresswoman Kilpatrick, also recognizes the impact these players had on the game of basketball and

American life. "The courage and commitment of these talented men and women helped break down the color barrier and made it possible for a new generation of athletes to experience even greater success in the NBA and WNBA," said Congresswoman Kilpatrick. "They not only left an indelible influence on the game of basketball with

their unique style of play, they also changed the fabric of American life." Kilpatrick and Stabenow presented a framed copy of the bill to Dr. John Kline, a former Harlem Globetrotter and president of the Black Legends of Professional Basketball Foundation. The organization seeks to preserve and perpetuate the rich and

often forgotten history of the many talented African American professionals who influenced the game of basketball in the 20th century, with special emphasis on those who played between 1900-1960. The foundation also lobbies for the inclusion of African American basketball pioneers into the National Basketball Hall of Fame.