

MSNBC political correspondent talks of post-racial issue

BY TORI P. HAYNESWORTH
FOR THE CHRONICLE

The N.C. NAACP had its political action luncheon on Friday, Oct. 9 at the Benton Convention Center on N. Cherry St. This event was a part of the N.C. NAACP 72nd annual statewide convention.

Different branches of the N.C. NAACP were in attendance along with several other guests. Councilwoman Denise Adams was the moderator that led the luncheon, while key officials like Attorney Gen. Roy Cooper and Rabbi Fred Guttman of Temple Emmanuel of Greensboro were present.

Mayor Allen Joiner presented Rev. Dr. William Barber the key to the city of Winston-Salem as well as complimenting him of his many achievements like the March for Voting Rights that took place in July.

"I wanted to show how much I appreciate you all being here and appreciate the work of Dr. Barber," said Joiner.

Dr. Barber spoke for a brief moment of how he and the N.C. NAACP extended an invitation to certain individuals to participate in the convention, like Gov. Pat McCrory, who decided not to attend but write a letter instead.

"We can't be a great organization that has done these things for North Carolina and is standing up for rights and you won't even meet with us about Medicaid expansion, and you won't meet with us about voting rights," said Barber.

There was a song selection and spoken word performance.

After lunch, Joy-Ann Reid, MSNBC political correspondent and the keynote speaker addressed the audience about the reality of "post-racial" by giving a brief history lesson of what African-Americans have went through after slavery.

"You can't be post-racial if you're trying to participate in this society in a post-racial fashion, not pointing out your difference but being noticed. When you're noticed, you can't be post-racial," said Reid. "We've had an entire history of the attempted post-racialism being met with violence, with murder and redemption."

Reid gave in some facts and figures about the critical issues such as the voter-ID law, which is also known to be the monstrous law, or House Bill 589.

"We are at a crossroads, not just in North Carolina but in the country where we're going to decide whether or not we want to truly embrace a future in which voters of every race and every ethnicity are encouraged to vote," said Reid.

People in the audience were moved by Reid's keynote address and some specifics points she made that revolved around the community as a state and as a nation.

"Hopefully those of us who were here that listened, will take it back and tell everybody else out here, because that's one of the most important speeches out here in a long time," said Jimmy Buxton of the N.C. NAACP Fayetteville Branch. "We got to get people energized to get out here and get these people out of office, simple as that."

A few of the younger generation grew inspired by



MSNBC Political Correspondent Joy Ann Reid delivers the keynote address at the Political Action Luncheon.

Reid's words.

"She spoke on a lot of points, especially about the voting rights, there's a lot of things that a lot of our youth and our peers do not know," said Maryellen Riley, sophomore at Shaw University.

"She's someone to look up to," said Tahirah Hargrove, sophomore at Winston-Salem State University. "She didn't come off as someone you couldn't talk to. I felt like she got us."

Reid also pointed out solutions that needs to be taken to get the community involved and in the right direction, like to be registered to vote between the ages of 16-18, and to register when citizens pay their taxes to name a few.

For more information or to learn more about the N.C. NAACP, call 866-626-2227 or visit www.naacpc.org.

N.C. NAACP women blast Sen. Burr on his record

BY CASH MICHAELS
FOR THE CHRONICLE

Female members of NAACP chapters from across North Carolina expressed concerns about the legislative record of Sen. Richard Burr last week, charging that the North Carolina Republican, who is up for reelection in 2016, has a record that shows "a disregard and disrespect for the value of women in North Carolina."

Flanked by N.C. NAACP President Rev. Dr. William Barber II, members of the organization WIN (Women In the NAACP) and other members attending the three-day state convention in Winston-Salem on Friday, Oct. 9, Executive Director Rev. Michelle Laws charged that Sen. Burr has

repeatedly stood in the way of women's issues.

"You've got a hard head, Sen. Burr," Laws exclaimed, as the women around her cheered.

She warned that Burr could face the wrath of the female ballot next year, saying that, "When women vote, the politics and the policies look differently."

Laws recounted how in 2009, Burr first recommended federal prosecutor Jennifer May-Parker, chief of the Appellate Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District in North Carolina, to fill one of over 80 open U.S. District Court seats in the federal judiciary.

If confirmed, May-Parker would have become the first black female federal judge in the history of the Eastern District.

But once President

Obama nominated her in 2013, Burr then inexplicably flipped, taking steps to block May-Parker's nomination, denying her a committee hearing, and ultimately forcing it to die after approximately 300 days.

Newspapers across the state blasted Sen. Burr for not only blocking the nomination, but also never explaining why he did it.

"As a result, the vast majority of African-Americans who reside in the Eastern District of North Carolina will not have the opportunity to be represented by the highly qualified, and more than capable attorney Jennifer May-Parker," Laws said.

Laws recalled that Sen. Burr also joined other Senate Republicans earlier this year in actively opposing the Senate confirma-

tion of U.S. Attorney Gen. Loretta Lynch, stalling it for over five months. Burr opposed the immensely qualified home state nominee last February, saying that if confirmed, Lynch, then a U.S. attorney in New York, would challenge North Carolina's restrictive voter ID law.

"I'm in the right on this one," Burr told a Raleigh television station.

But after mounting national and statewide pressure, Lynch was finally confirmed as the first black woman ever to become U.S. attorney general in history, in April.

Still, the conservative senator's opposition proved that he had "a head as hard as a rock," Rev. Laws said.

"We are concerned not only about the judicial appointments, the pattern of simple disregard and disrespect for the value of women, for the quality of life and well-being of the women in North Carolina," the NCNAACP executive director continued. "Simply put, [Burr's] record speaks volumes, and we know that women in North Carolina make up over 53 percent of registered voters."

Noting that the men of the N.C. NAACP stand strongly by the women and their demands for justice and equality, state NAACP Pres. Rev. Dr. Barber



Flanked by members of WIN (Women in the NAACP), N.C. NAACP Executive Director Rev. Michelle Laws (center) tells reporters that Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) has failed the women of North Carolina on important issues.

echoed concerns about Burr, saying that just like arch-conservative Sen. Jesse Helms, Burr's voting record on women's issues, civil rights and voting rights "has been atrocious."

"The NAACP has given him an F," Barber added. "A on smiling; F or policy. A for dressing right F for voting wrong."

Fight

from page A1

funded, constitutional, diverse public education," in addition to proper funding for historically-black colleges and universities.

Also important "...to pursue liberty," Barber called for health care for all by ensuring access to the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, Medicare, and protecting Social Security. Protecting the environment was also key, as well as correcting injustices in the criminal justice system that negatively impact people of color and poor whites.

On citizen rights, Barber maintained the importance of preserving and protecting voting, women's, LGBT and civil rights.

"And always, I don't are what Donald Trump says...we must demand that nobody touch the 14th Amendment that guarantees equal protection under the law," Barber exclaimed to applause.

The progressive agenda Rev. Barber presented is viewed by many in the conservative ranks as "socialist" or "communist," he said, but that's because "a regressive and extremist [NC] Legislature..." has chosen to ignore the needs of the poor, and the common people.

Indeed, especially in the South, "...the poorest districts in the country are the [politically] reddest districts," Barber noted, adding that conservative politicians who are working to hurt the poor, are also hurting the very people who support them.

"And somehow in the South, they're so blinded by the Southern Strategy and the old tricks of racism, that many Southern whites don't realize that they're in the same boat as black people," the NCNAACP leader said.

After railing off a full list of other injustices perpetrated against communities of color and poor whites by the Tea Party and conservative Republicans, and saying now that "...it's easier to get a gun than to register to vote," Barber proclaimed,

Reminding convention gatherers that they were not there for fellowship, but

rather were in a "war room," Rev. Barber said in 2016, the focus of all NAACP branches will be to maximize memberships, further mobilize the Moral Monday movement across the state in various counties, especially in home districts of conservative state legislators who oppose the progressive agenda; and move and march massive votes to the polls.

"We're going to put together the most massive get-out-to-vote effort ever seen since the '60's," Rev. Barber promised, adding that the NCNAACP and Forward Together Movement will continue to build coalitions for progress. "This foolishness has gone on too long."

"It's our time now!" Dwayne Stevenson, who drove two hours from Moore County to the convention, said he was moved by Barber's powerful words.

"I've been a member for over 10 years and that was one of the best speeches I've heard at the convention it was very powerful and uplifting."

John Stean, a member and recent intern of the state NAACP branch, said Barber's message was a perfect blend of past, present, and future.

"He does a good job of blending the history of this movement and transitioning that into what it means, practically for us to things now that will make a difference," Stean said.


Before leaving the stage, Barber said for the movement to be successful, everyone must remain focused and not pay attention to the foolishness.

"There is no time for foolishness when they are suppressing our votes and denying us healthcare," Barber said.

"This is no time for foolishness when Jonathan Ferrell, a college student, is gunned down by a police officer in Charlotte," Barber said.

"Instead of foolishness, we need to remain focused on pursuing justice," said Barber. "When people are taking things from you and when some people don't have the consciousness to know it, someone has got to sound the alarm and let it be known that this is no time for foolishness."

THE ELLISON
LAW FIRM



Eric S. Ellison
Attorney At Law

Is Your License Revoked or even Permanently Revoked?
I May Be Able to Get You a Driving Privilege.

Is the Bail Bondsman Too Expensive? Maybe You Need to try a Property Bond.
Call Me!

112 North Marshall Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
(Just North of 1st Street)
Phone: (336) 723-7370
Fax: (336) 723-7372
ellisonlaw@earthlink.net

"Dedicated To Providing You The Best Service."

GUARANTEED GROWTH WITH TRULIANT'S CERTIFICATE SPECIALS

46-MONTH TERM

2.00% APY¹

ONE-TIME RATE INCREASE OPTION

18-MONTH TERM

0.61% APY¹

SMART SHORT-TERM SAVINGS OPTION

SPECIALS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR IRA CERTIFICATES²

Truliant.org/CertificatePromo | 800.822.0382

LIFE IMPROVED

TRULIANT
Federal Credit Union

Truliant is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. (1) APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Offers valid through 11/14/15. Specials require a minimum deposit of \$1,000 from funds not currently on deposit at Truliant. Offers not valid on business certificates and cannot be combined with any other offers. Penalty for early withdrawal. (2) One-time rate increase option will match the certificate's current advertised rate, up to 1%. (3) Federal law may require substantial tax penalty for early withdrawal from an IRA.