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## Some 'Government Workers' Earning Private Sector CEO Wages

By Jazelle Hunt  
NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The CEOs of some private firms that have taken over government functions are earning as much as \$8 million a year, according to a new report titled, "Exposed: America's Highest Paid Government Workers."

The report, published by the Center for Media and Democracy (CMD), said American taxpayers have paid nearly \$120 million in personal compensation to a handful of corporate CEOs running the nation's public services.

For example, George Zoley, dubbed the "highest paid corrections officer," is the CEO of The GEO Group, Inc., an international detention/corrections firm headquartered in Florida. It owns nearly 50 adult and juvenile facilities in the United States. Most are in the south and southwest, with six in southern California, six in Florida, and 11 in Texas.

"Since its founding nearly 30 years ago, GEO Group profited from federal and state policies that led to a dramatic rise in incarceration and detention in the United States - an increase of more than 500 percent during the past three decades," the report states. "In recent years, with crime rates dropping and sentencing reform spreading, GEO Group found a new way to keep its profits high: many of its contracts contain bed guarantees or 'lock up quotas' that require the state keep prisons full, and put taxpayers on the hook for empty beds."

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Ferdinand Vincent "Pete" Allison

## Ferdinand V. "Pete" Allison Dies at 91

Ferdinand Vincent "Pete" Allison died Monday, March 3, after declining health.

Allison was president and CEO of Mutual Community Savings Bank. He was active in the community as long-time chairman of the Durham Committee on the Affair of Black People.

In October 2013, he was inducted into the North Carolina Banking Hall of Fame.

Services will be held Sat., March 8 at White Rock Baptist Church, 3400 Fayetteville St. A visitation will be held from 12 noon to 1 p.m. with the memorial service beginning at 1 p.m.

A public viewing will be held Fri., March 7, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at Burtley Funeral Service, 1510 Fayetteville St. A wake will be held at White Rock from 7 to 9 p.m.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. F. Lavonia Allison; two children, F. Vincent Allison, III and K. Michelle Allison-Davis; and four grandchildren, Christopher Vincent Allison, Bryan Mikell Allison, Curtis L. Davis Jr. and Melissa A. Davis.

## Tyler Perry: 'People Don't Understand Our Brand Of Humor'

By Shamika Sanders

Special to the NNPA from the Atlanta Daily World

Tyler Perry has been a pivotal figure in Black cinema since he first debuted his spit-fire character Madea to the time he created Tyler Perry Studios and later partnered with Oprah's network OWN to establish his dominance in television. While his achievements may be overlooked by White-washed award shows, he finds support at the NAACP Image Awards.

Tyler attended the 45th annual NAACP Image Awards at the Pasadena Civic Center in Pasadena, California recently and revealed to us what differentiates the Image Awards from every other award show.

"It's just about the celebration of who we are which is so important," he said. "I think that there are a lot of times people don't understand our brand of humor, our brand of celebration, our brand of who we are and it's really awesome to be able to do that."

With Stevie Wonder at the helms of a musical tribute to Nelson Mandela and "The Butler" and "Fruitvale Station," finally receiving the recognition it deserved, we asked Tyler what moment he was anticipating the most he responded, "I'm just surprised all the way around so I'm looking forward to all of it. I think it's going to be fun."



The NCCU Eagles men's basketball team beat Savannah State 64-57 in overtime March 3 at McDougald-McLendon Gymnasium. The Eagles clinched the regular-season championship in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. NCCU rejoined the MEAC in 2011. (Photo Courtesy NCCU Eagle Pride Website)

## Big Money Lobbying Protects Big Tax Havens

By Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.  
NNPA Columnist

Eighteen American multinationals - companies such as Nike, Microsoft and Apple - have used tax havens abroad to avoid what Citizens for Tax Justice (CTJ) estimates as \$92 billion in federal taxes. This is money that could be used to provide universal pre-school for America's children. CTJ also found 235 companies reported last year more than \$1.3 trillion stashed abroad to avoid paying the taxes that domestic companies must pay.

A Senate hearing showed how Apple used Ireland as its favorite tax haven, developing what Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) called "the Holy Grail of tax avoidance," creating "offshore tax entities - while claiming to be a tax resident nowhere."

This outrage is not illegal. In a dodge known as "deferral," the tax laws allow companies to forego paying taxes on money earned (or reported as earned abroad) until the company brings the money back to the United States.

Can anything better highlight how the rules are rigged? This perverse loophole gives companies a very big incentive to ship jobs or report profits abroad. Through transfer pricing, multinationals can easily game the system to report their profits in low tax countries abroad, even while the bulk of their sales are in the U.S. This, in part, is how General Electric can make millions in profits and pay nothing in taxes.

But that isn't the end of the perversity. As companies park more and more cash abroad, they then pay more in lobbying and campaign contributions to persuade Congress to give them a deep tax break if they bring the money home in what they call - a tax repatriation holiday."

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