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# The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDED

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## Angry at Trump, N.C. Democrats hope for '18

By Gary D. Robertson

RALEIGH (AP) - North Carolina Democrats say they are beginning 2018 energized and intent on regaining their historical control of the state's General Assembly, harnessing anger over Republican Donald Trump's presidency and buoyed by Democratic victories elsewhere.

Eager to reassert their longtime influence on North Carolina politics, the Democrats already have already fielded an unusually large pool of candidates for 100 seats in the 170-member bicameral legislature. Though official candidate filing doesn't start until mid-February, the Democrats are quickly approaching the number of House and Senate seats they contested in 2016 and hope to strongly contest each seat in November.

Republicans used a similar full-court candidate strategy in 2010 to seize control of both chambers for the first time in 140 years. They've held veto-proof majorities since 2013, allowing them to impose a right-leaning agenda including broad tax cuts, abortion restrictions and taxpayer-funded grants for children to attend private schools. They also passed the state's "bathroom bill," later partially repealed. While Democrats regained a bully pulpit when Gov. Roy Cooper narrowly defeated GOP incumbent Pat McCrory in 2016, they've still been unable to stop the GOP agenda because most of the Democratic governor's vetoes were overridden.

Republicans, well-honed in their own campaign operations, acknowledge the Democrats' momentum but point out November is months away. They say their record of cutting taxes and regulations has paid dividends through economic growth and low jobless rates. But that's not deterring newcomers, who are raising their hands for the Democrats well before all 50 Senate seats and all 120 House seats go up for grabs Nov. 6.

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### Brother-in-law of Martin Luther King Jr. dies at 83

ATLANTA (AP) - The brother-in-law of Martin Luther King Jr. and a founding member of The Martin Luther King Center for Nonviolent Social Change has died.

Isaac Newton Farris Sr., who suffered from prostate cancer and Parkinson's disease, died at his Atlanta home on Dec. 30, his daughter Angela Farris-Watkins told The Associated Press. He was 83.

Farris married Christine King in a ceremony performed by Martin Luther King Jr. and their brother A.D. King on Aug. 19, 1960.

"He wasn't caught up marrying into a prominent family," Farris-Watkins said by phone. "He was secure in his own right."

Farris was a successful entrepreneur and founder of

served a project manager for the construction of The King Center. "Through all the tragedies and victories he helped build the King Center," Farris-Watkins said.

The center was founded by Martin Luther King's wife, Coretta Scott King.

Farris was also a deacon and trustee at the historic Ebenezer Baptist church where he was a member for over 60 years.

"He was such an integral part of our family who will be sorely missed," Farris-Watkins said.

In addition to his daughter, Farris is survived by his wife, Christine, his son Isaac Farris Jr., his granddaughter, Farris Watkins, his sister Gail Farris Joyce and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Funeral arrangements will be handled by Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home in Atlanta.



NCCU Graduates More than 600 at Fall Commencement. NCCU Ph.D. graduates of the Integrated Biosciences Program, Dal Khatri and Quantil Melendez See story on page 2. (NCCU Public Relations photo.)

### Actor, Activist and Father: Ossie Davis Remembered

Ossie Davis Would Have Turned 100 This Year. His Children Remember his Life

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

Entertainer and activist Ossie Davis would be 100 years old if he was alive today. Yet, it's impossible to celebrate his life without also honoring the storied career of his wife and life partner, Ruby Dee.

Given the heightened racial tensions in America, it's also hard to ignore that Davis and Dee always stood out as dedicated activists for freedom, justice and equality.

"We raised them well," joked Nora Davis Day, one of the couple's three children.

Nora joined her sister, Hasna Muhammad, and her brother, Guy, for an interview with the NNPA Newswire to honor their mother and father for his birthday.

"I've always thought of being their children as 'ordinary and extraordinary,'" said Day. "On Saturday, we did our chores, scrubbed the bathroom and we did our homework. They were serious about parenting, not unlike many homes."

While Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were famous actors, their children said that they never felt they had anything to brag about around the neighborhood.

"Many of our friends were in the same position," Muhammad said. "We played with Sidney Poitier's children, Harry Belafonte's children and the children of other activists and actors. We were all in the same position, so it's wasn't about, 'Hey, my dad was on TV last night,' because everybody's dad was on TV last night."

A host of stars lived in and around the family's Mount Vernon, N.Y. enclave, including Poitier, writer E.B. White, producer Dick Clark, actor Art Carney and boxer Floyd Patterson.

"As an adult and a parent myself, I came to discover just how wonderful and amazing our parents were and how thoughtful they were," said Guy Davis, an accomplished blues musician.

Guy Davis pointed toward his parents' activism and their deep friendships with folks like Paul Robeson and Malcolm X. Ossie Davis ultimately would give the eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral.

Davis said his parents taught lessons even while administering discipline.

"They were like Joe Louis' boxing gloves, the left and the right," said Guy Davis. "One was the punisher and the other was the educator. They worked well together."

Guy Davis continued: "When I got into trouble, dad would make me stand there with my palms facing up and he'd look me in the eye and tell me what I did wrong and take his belt off and 'Wham!' [hit my hands with the belt]. He could hurt you without ever harming you."

Meanwhile, Ruby Dee, "could light you up and your knees would be buckling, before you were hit."

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### Daughter of Black Lives Matter key figure Eric Garner dies

NEW YORK (AP) - The daughter of key Black Lives Matter figure Eric Garner died Dec. 30 after a weeklong hospital stay following a heart attack.

"She was a warrior to the end. She stood up for justice for her father," the Rev. Al Sharpton said in announcing the death of Garner, 27, at a New York hospital.

Garner's official Twitter account, run by her family and friends since she became ill, asked that she be remembered as a mother, daughter, sister and aunt with a heart "bigger than the world."

In 2014, her father, Eric Garner, who was black, was stopped on Staten Island for selling untaxed cigarettes and died after a white police officer subdued him with a chokehold. A grand jury declined to indict the officer; the city agreed to pay a \$6 million civil settlement.

Garner's last words, "I can't breathe," became a slogan for activists.

Erica Garner became a voice for police accountability after his death, criticizing Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio over policing matters. In 2016, she campaigned on behalf of Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, an independent, for president.

Garner's mother, Esaw Snipes, told The New York Times previously that Garner, who gave birth four months ago, had learned during the pregnancy that she had heart problems.

Snipes said Garner had a heart attack after an asthma episode and was placed in a medically induced coma.

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The children of Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. (From left-right) Nora Davis Day, Guy Davis and Dr. Hasna Muhammad. (Family of Ossie Davis)

### Mother: Alabama police beat black 17-year-old son

TROY, Ala. (AP) - An Alabama woman says police severely beat her black 17-year-old son while he was handcuffed and she wants answers from authorities about what happened.

Angela Williams shared a photo of her son's bloodied face on Facebook and it went viral. Representatives for the family say Ulysses Wilkerson was startled by police on the night of Dec. 23 and he ran away. They say officers caught up to him and beat him.

The county prosecutor tells CNN police say they used force after Wilkerson reached into his waistband for what they feared might be a weapon. Troy police tell WHDN-TV that Wilkerson has been charged with resisting arrest and obstruction, both misdemeanors.

His father, Ulysses Wilkerson Jr., told the station his son's eye socket was cracked and his brain was swollen.

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