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North Carolina police charge man officers struck with baton

RALEIGH, (AP) - North Carolina authorities say a black man seen on video being struck by police faces charges of assaulting an officer and resisting arrest.

Media organizations report 44-year-old Frederick Hall of Raleigh was arrested Sunday, Aug. 19. He did not have a listed phone number where he or relatives could be reached.

Video of Friday's altercation with police was posted on Facebook and had more than 50,000 views by Sunday, Aug. 19. Images show the shirtless, barefoot man swinging his fists at a half-dozen officers in the middle of a road before being taken to the pavement. One officer is shown striking the prone man repeatedly in the back with a baton as the struggle continues.

Members of the local NAACP chapter and other civil rights groups said they didn't think Hall's treatment was justified.

NAACP To Meet

The monthly general body meeting of the Durham Branch of the NAACP will be held Sun., Aug. 26 at 4 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, 1007 S. Roixboro St.

The public is invited to Meet and Greet the new President Pastor Rachel H. Green and the Executive Board.

The public invited to attend.

For more information call 919-952-0798.



REP. JIM CLYBURN

South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn Says that Democrats that Want to Win in November Must Advertise in the Black Press

Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) says that President Trump has a deep-seated hatred for people of color that manifests itself every day.

August 20, 2018 NNPA Freddie Politics 0

Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) says that President Trump has a deep-seated hatred for people of color that manifests itself every day. In this photo, ahead of the anniversary of the Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2012, House Democratic leaders held a press conference to highlight the benefits of the Affordable Care Act for America's families and small businesses. (Wikimedia Commons)

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

While there's at least a perceived growing number of Democrats who say they want to replace California Rep. Nancy Pelosi as the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn has emerged as a favorite among his peers to become the first African American to hold that position.

In an exclusive interview with the NNPA Newswire, the 25-year congressman said that, while he's ready for the challenge, Democrats currently have much bigger fish to fry.

"The first order of business is to win the [midterm] elections on November 6," Clyburn said. "That's what I've been concentrating on."

Clyburn and Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond each told the NNPA Newswire that they've identified 37 districts across the country they believe can be won by Democrats this year, which would wrest control of the House from Republicans.

"We feel, with the right kind of effort, we can win," Clyburn said.

Clyburn listed three keys to success this November.

The first key, Clyburn said, is to prioritize the Black vote; Democrats can't afford to take the African American vote for granted.

Second, the Democrats shouldn't rely on an anti-President Donald Trump wave to get out the vote. Finally, Clyburn said that candidates must advertise in the Black Press, if they want to win in November.

"We are also talking about districts where Barack Obama won twice and where Hillary Clinton also won, but these voters don't turn out for the so-called 'off-year elections,'" Clyburn said. "We can't let these voters feel like we're taking them for granted."

Clyburn, 78, said he was recently taken aback by one candidate, who said that he could win the Black vote by running on an anti-Trump platform.

"Wait one second," Clyburn said that he told the individual. "We can't just go around being 'Republican-light.' We have to be out there putting forth an alternative message, for our base, and we have to reach out to Black voters and let them know we're not taking them or any of our base for granted."

To that end, Clyburn said advertising campaigns must largely include the Black Press.

"It's very, very important...Chairman Richmond and I have had candidates in and we've been telling them that one of the best ways to demonstrate that you're not taking the Black vote for granted is to advertise in the Black Press," Clyburn said.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is the oldest and largest trade group representing the Black Press, comprised of more than 200 Black-owned newspapers operating in the United States.

"I've been in [the Black Press]. My daughter and I ran a newspaper down South, so I know that candidates tend to take Black media for granted," Clyburn said. "They tend to judge Black media the same way they do other media and you just can't do that, because the business model is totally different."

Each Sunday after attending Morris Brown A.M.E. Church in Charleston, S.C., Clyburn said he and other churchgoers habitually pick up the local Black-owned newspaper.

"People tend to pay attention to the headlines, the stories and the ads in the Black Press so it's vitally important that candidates know this," Clyburn said.

A former history teacher, Clyburn said Trump's obsession with dismantling Obama's legacy is reminiscent of tactics employed by Andrew Johnson to demean his predecessor, Abraham Lincoln.

Johnson, who was impeached by House in 1868, had a vision of America as a White man's government, according to historians.

"If you remember, it's the same kind of reaction Johnson had to Lincoln and I remember sitting alone once in the Oval Office with Obama and I told him that this would be the kind of reaction he could expect," Clyburn said.

"[Obama] was never going to get the kind of respect for his presidency that was shown to presidents before him," Clyburn said. "The narrative that exists in this country is that there are certain things that Black folks are not supposed to do and one of those things is becoming the president of the United States and [President Trump] and his administration, feel they have to do whatever they can to wipe out any semblance that Barack Obama was ever president of the United States."

Clyburn continued: "[Trump] has a deep-seated hatred for people of color and it manifests itself every day."



In this Jan. 19, 1993 file photo, singer Aretha Franklin performs at the inaugural gala for President Bill Clinton in Washington. Franklin died Thursday, Aug. 16, 2018, at her home in Detroit. She was 76. Throughout Franklin's career, "The Queen of Soul" often returned to Washington - the nation's capital - for performances that at times put her in line with key moments of U.S. History. (AP Photo/Amy Sancetta, File)

Aretha Franklin came to Washington to sing - and for history

By RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

As a 21-year-old Aretha Franklin worked on her singing voice in New York during the summer of 1963, her father, Rev. C. L. Franklin, raced to finish the final touches on the planned March on Washington.

Nearly five decades later, Franklin found herself in Washington and performing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" at the inauguration of the nation's first black president.

It wasn't the first time she sang to a Leader of the Free World.

Throughout her career, the "Queen of Soul" often returned to the nation's capital for performances that at times put her in line with key moments of U.S. history. She sang for diplomats, welcomed emperors and brought one president - Barack Obama - to tears. Franklin accepted many honors and performed for charities and civil rights groups in Washington. She even got in one heated argument at the White House with another unnamed diva that resulted in the two performers reportedly exchanging obscene gestures toward each other.

For the Memphis, Tennessee-born, Detroit-raised Franklin, it's not surprising she found herself in Washington late in her career. Franklin surrounded herself with the politics of the day and often referenced her experiences alongside episodes of U.S. history in speeches, interviews and her 1999 autobiography, "Aretha: From These Roots."

She noted in her book, for example, that she was born three months after Pearl Harbor and her father backed Democrat Adlai Stevenson for president in 1956. "Daddy was a staunch, lifelong Democrat, as I am," she wrote.

Franklin also mentioned that family passed down tales about the historic treatment of African-Americans, from slavery to sharecropping - something she'd never forget. "My grandmother, whom we all called Big Mama, had worked the fields herself and told us stories of those difficult days," Franklin wrote in her autobiography. "No matter how much cotton you picked, you always owed the man."

After Franklin found success, she began to make money. "I was intent on enjoying it," she said. "I tithed and gave to many charities, including Jesse Jackson's Operation Breadbasket, the NAACP, Operation PUSH, UNICEF, and Easter Seals."

Franklin hit the scene as soul and rhythm and blues had supplanted jazz as the preferred music of young African Americans. Performers like Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughn, Lena Horne, and Ella Fitzgerald, though respected and admired, were falling out of favor among the younger generation. As a leader in the new soul movement, Franklin gain credibility and Democratic groups and civil rights organizations sought her out for performances that eventually landed her in Washington or near political centers of power.

In 1968, Democrats asked her to sing the national anthem at the Democratic convention in Chicago. As she prepared to sing, police and anti-Vietnam war protesters clashed in the street. Franklin performed although she famously forgot a few lines.

Then the disco era came, and sales of her albums fell. Like soul singers Ray Charles and Nina Simone, she performed overseas in places like Paris and London.

Franklin returned to the spotlight in 1977 during nationally broadcast "Jimmy Carter's Inaugural Gala" in Washington. In her first performance for a president, she sang "God Bless America."

But it was through the election of President Bill Clinton that Aretha Franklin's career experienced a resurgence. Both Clinton and first lady Hillary Clinton told Aretha they grew up on "Respect" and loved soul. "To have a fellow baby boomer - a bubba and a saxophonist to boot - in the White House, well, let the party begin," Franklin said. In a violet-tulle-and-silver Bob Mackie evening gown, Franklin performed at two inaugural balls and on the inaugural telecast. It was during the Clinton celebration that Franklin said tempers flared over an "innocuous statement" she made about another diva's escort and the pair of singers got in a heated argument under "one of the great works of art in one of the historic rooms" of the White House, Franklin wrote.

"As we sashayed away from each other, our parting gesture was the finger," she said.

While Clinton was in the White House, Franklin sang in the Rose Garden during a visit by the emperor and empress of Japan.

In 1994, Franklin returned to Washington, becoming the youngest artist to receive a Kennedy Center honor. Fellow honorees included actor Kirk Douglas and folk singer Pete Seeger. Fellow diva Patti LaBelle performed in Franklin's honor.

President George W. Bush, a Republican, awarded Franklin in 2005 the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award.

Four years later, the Queen of Soul was back in Washington, performing for Obama, the nation's first black president. Her grey outfit and supporting grey hat dotted with Swarovski crystals, designed by Luke Song, became an Internet sensation and an early meme.

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