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"Power concedes nothing without a struggle." — Frederick Douglass

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Memorial Day Finds Vet Reliving War Wounds

▲ **Sam Brown:** "I was called a lot of names . . . I had to do twice as much as whites"

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Most soldiers only get one Purple Heart for being wounded during service in the military — and that wound is usually fatal.

Sam Brown has two Purple Hearts and is still living to tell about them.

"I think the good Lord was looking out

for me to get two Purple Hearts and still be kicking," said Brown, who was wounded twice during the Korean War where he served as a combat marine.

He was working at R.J. Reynolds when he was called to the Marine Corps on April 27, 1952.

On this Memorial Day weekend, Brown

will have vivid memories some of the most gruesome details of the war — seeing his friend's head being blown off during an attack and another one losing a leg. He said he also recalls, as if yesterday, creeping through barbed wire, tipping across mine fields armed with grenades and automatic rifles and lying down in the cold waiting for

an ambush.

The living quarters, he recalled, were primitive.

"I lived in crude bunkers of sandbags and logs and when we coughed it came up black as soot," he said.

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Sam Brown



These students participated in the Reading Olympiad sponsored last week by Winston-Salem Urban League.

Urban League Helps Students Learn Black History Through Reading Competition

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Gordon Wilson Jr. constantly urges his daughters to read so that they will learn about black history and increase their overall knowledge.

On Thursday, two of his daughters, Chondra and Sateria, won silver medals for reading books at the Reading Olympiad awards reception sponsored by the Winston-Salem Urban League.

"I think it's great," Wilson said. "I studied history at Winston-Salem State, so I required them to read black-history books. It's good to see things that promote our culture in the community."

The Reading Olympiad started five years ago as a program to expose students to black history and literature by encouraging them to read books by and/or about black people.

Alberta McMillian, an education and training director at the Urban League, said the program offers a fun and competitive way for black youths to learn about their heritage.

"It helps them understand who they are," she said. "The (public school) system doesn't

"The system doesn't expose them to African-American history, so we have to find a method to do it."

expose them to African-American history, so we have to find a method to do it."

John Raye, who handles business development and community relations for Dudley Products, was the keynote speaker. In a dramatic speech, he told students that the ability to read would be the key to open all doors to success.

"Reading people are ruling people. They

know what it takes to get ahead," Raye said. "When you know how to read, you can create your own future. . . . Your power is in what you think."

Students had to read and discuss each book with a volunteer "chatperson" in order to get earn points for gold, silver or bronze medals.

Cash prizes up to \$100 were given to the highest readers, who read over 20 books by such authors as Gwendolyn Brooks and Langston Hughes and biographies on blacks ranging from baseball star Satchel Paige to civil-rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

Chatpersons Terrence Langford and Cedric Thomas produced several cash-award winners.

Both said they used competition to encourage their students to read and said they felt a sense of pride in helping black youths learn about their history.

Schools Seek Image Change

▲ **Task force to look for ways to improve schools' unsafe perception**

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Forsyth County commissioners have charged the Safe Schools Task Force with drafting proposals to obtain portions of the \$12 million state-wide school-intervention grant established by the General Assembly.

The 58-member committee was to meet today to begin discussing possible programs to be funded by the Intervention/Prevention Grant Program for North Carolina School Children.

The grant was created during the legislature's special crime session where more than \$50 million was allocated for crime prevention. Forsyth County's lot is \$100,000.

"The committee will have the opportunity to propose programs and projects intervening in situations to provide some relief to issues and problems as related to safety in schools," said Pam Chisholm, a committee member and auditor for the school system.

She said the task force will likely implement programs to reduce a perception that schools are unsafe.

Between August and January, 10 weapons were found at middle schools and 20 at high schools. Found at middle schools were seven knives, a starter pistol, a b.b. gun and a .25-caliber pistol. At the high schools, the weapons consisted of six knives, three starter pistols, two b.b. guns, two .25-caliber pistols, two .38-caliber pistols, a .45-caliber pistol and two rifles. Some of the Safe Schools programs have already been enacted, including curriculum for students teaching life skills, such as self-esteem, codes of conduct and understanding differences. Teachers are also getting programs to teach life skills.

Funds also have been allocated for a teacher at LIFT Academy, and a Juvenile Advocate Resource officer has been hired. Also, a considerable amount of the grant money has been invested into training all schools on conflict resolution, cultural diversity and peer mediation, Chisholm said.

Marcia Epstein, director of middle school and committee member, said Forsyth County has an advantage in applying for the grant because the committee is representative of the kind of people required by the state for the intervention task force. She added that because the group has worked on the Safe Schools grant, it has already been thinking about some intervention.

Commissioner Mazie Woodruff said she is pleased that the same group of people will be working on this grant proposal.

"We've got some good people on that committee, and they are not afraid to speak up," she said.



Mazie Woodruff

Church Makes History with First Women Deacons

By VERONICA CLEMONS
Chronicle Staff Writer

Sunday's deacon ordination service at Emmanuel Baptist Church was like no other in its 79-year history.

The procession of the candidates with their spouses was the same and the order of the service was similar to previous ordination ceremonies. The difference?

For the first time in the history of the church, women were ordained as deacons.

"I am filled up today because I've wit-

nessed a great occasion," said Sammie Torbit, chairman of the deacon board.

Mary Jenkins, a Winston-Salem native who holds the oldest church membership at 56 years, did not believe this day would ever come — much less that she would be a part of it. She was one of three women ordained. The others were Helen Watkins and Nadyne Brown.

"My daddy was a deacon and I know in his time it would have never happened," she said. "They didn't believe in it."

Three men also were ordained.

"We can be proud of this day Emmanuel,"

said the Rev. John Mendez, the church's pastor. "We have taken a bold step forward in the right direction. We must empower all of our members and not practice discrimination."

Helen Watkins, an Emmanuel member for 26 years and a Sunday school teacher, said she knew at some point the time would come, but she just didn't expect to be one of those making history.

"We've always been a progressive church," Brown said. "I never doubted that we would get to this point, because out in the workforce in corporate America you see things changing constantly."

Brown is a lead systems analyst for R.J. Reynolds and the only female deacon who is married. She said she has received a tremendous amount of support from her husband and her daughter, despite some opposing comments.

"He is the most fantastic person," she said. "People said stuff to him, and anyone else would have said don't do this because it will cause friction. He's been so supportive. That's a strong man."

Brown, originally from Hamlet, came to

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