

FORUM

Senators, reconsider your position on the Loretta Lynch nomination

Alma S. Adams

Guest Columnist

March 27, 2015

The Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senator
217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thom Tillis
United States Senator
G55 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Burr and Senator Tillis:

We strongly urge you to reconsider your position on the nomination of Loretta Lynch for United States Attorney General. We ask that you set aside partisan politics and support the nomination of this qualified nominee who is a native North Carolinian.

Ms. Lynch's extensive resume as a successful litigator speaks volumes to her qualifications to fill the role of United States Attorney General. As United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Ms. Lynch has passionately prosecuted cases involving public corruption, terrorism, narcotics, and violent crime. She has earned a reputation from law enforcement and elected officials on both sides of the aisle as being a fair but tough

prosecutor who is more than capable of serving as our next Attorney General.

We recognize that as members of the Senate it is your duty to ensure that our Attorney General meets the qualifications for this important position. This is a sacred duty that must be taken seriously. That is why we ask that you judge Ms. Lynch's nomination solely on her qualifications and not allow partisan distractions to cloud your judgments.

As fellow members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation, we strongly encourage you to stand on the right side of history and support the nomination of the first African American woman, North Carolina's own, Loretta Lynch, to be the next United States Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

David Price
Member of Congress



Butterfield



Price



Lynch

AP Photo



Burr



Tillis

Blacks must re-learn voter education

James J. Hawkins

Guest Columnist

We must go back to re-learn the basic rules of voter education, master them, then share them with our sisters and brothers.

THE PROBLEMS:

Many of us have not taken time to look at our elected officials, candidates for office or the issues we face today. We have accepted shortcuts

like sounds bites and photo ops rather than doing real research.

We give too much credence to national corporate-owned television stations, news programs, talk shows and newspapers. It is very difficult to tell the differences, if any, between their news and entertainment.

NOTE: History has taught us that it is very difficult to defeat our opponent if we do not know their reputation, values, personality and tactics. United States Army General George S. Patton and German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel spent many hours studying each other



before and during the war.

THE SOLUTIONS:

Two words: voter education. We need to do an in-depth study of the people we elected; those running for office and the issues affecting our lives. Finding all of that information could be a full time job, so we need to divide that task. We can find some information online, in the media and conversations with groups or people we trust.

Our conversations and online search will still be a small part, leaving the media to fill us in on the majority of that important information.

I watch NBC News and MSNBC for the majority

of my trusted daily news. I watch FOX on a limited basis to see what the other side is saying. I read my local daily newspaper and some days purchase USA Today. For weekly trusted news, I read my two local Black newspapers in Wilmington, N.C. They are The Wilmington Journal and Greater Diversity News.

As you see, it takes a lot of research to become the well-informed educated voter we all want and need to be. If you do not have or take the amount time that I do to become or remain an educated voter, I have one suggestion that will help you on your way.

The majority of political information we are seeking can be found in, our reference book, the weekly Black Newspaper. Their professional staff has done the detective research for us so we just need to read, digest it, and then evaluate our options.

To my knowledge,

there are six more Black newspapers in North Carolina. They are:

- *The Carolina Peacemaker in Greensboro.
- *The Carolinian in Raleigh
- *The Chronicle in Winston Salem
- *The County News in Iredell County
- *The Carolina Times in Durham
- *The Fayetteville Press (monthly) in Fayetteville

The search for truth is a never-ending battle. The early Europeans found truth by listening to Radio Free Europe. We, Blacks, find truth by reading Black newspapers.

We must financially support our papers by purchasing a subscription and advertising our businesses. If we do not own a business, we can still participate by buying space for memorials, anniversaries and congratulations. Black papers have no corporate

sponsorship that tell them what to print, so they can, and always, tell it like it is. Use it or lose it.

To be successful in this our Third Reconstruction, we must make the best use of one hour (60 minutes). Please spend only five minutes discussing the problem and 55 minutes working on the solutions.

SERENITY PRAYER:

(truncated) God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

James J. Hawkins is a retired vocational education teacher, past president of the New Hanover County NAACP, A&T State University alumni, member of friends of Abraham Galloway and author of the book "What We Blacks Need To Do". To comment or order a copy of his book, please e-mail him at jhan606@gmail.com.

NNPA event helped me to appreciate the Black Press

Sheridan Watkins

Guest Columnist

Whose genius idea was it to host all renowned Black publishers and contributors of the Black Press together in one setting? To you, I extend the utmost appreciation, as it led the way for me, an intern at The Chronicle, to be a part of Black Press Week this year in Washington, D.C.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation (NNPAF) celebrated 75 years of Black excellence in the media through numerous awards, recognitions and sponsors and invited 19 eager interns to see it unfold on March 25-27.

This became an enormous platform to network with those who have securely established themselves over the decades and

young prospects who share similar goals and aspirations. Interns and professionals from across the nation — Texas, Florida, Tennessee, California and Arizona to name a few — traveled many miles to witness themselves and their peers continue the NNPAF tradition.

Since there was so much to include in this week of historic Black journalism, allow me to take you on the virtual day-to-day journey of Black Press Week 2015:

The experience began as soon as my feet hit the pavement. Within an hour, the NNPAF interns were greeting one another and gearing up for the first workshop of the day, with the editor-in-chief of the NNPAF News Service, George Curry.

Curry has gained much experience in journalism. He has published a few books as well as been involved in many media organizations.

I could tell by his demeanor that the interns



Chronicle intern Sheridan Watkins and Publisher Ernest Pitt gather at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

were in for an intense lesson, and although the workshop was not long, he made sure to share vital pointers to improve our feature writing skills.

And from there it was time to meet some people who have been doing our intended profession long before we grasped our aspirations. Many Black publishers, including The Chronicle's Ernest Pitt, were there to network and share common interests

and advice with the NNPAF interns. It was amazing to see Black legends together in one place.

The following day was the only full day the interns had to experience Black Press Week in Washington, D.C., and the NNPAF made sure to take advantage of it.

The highlights of that day were traveling to Howard University to see the media lab, the museum and the library.

The fact that the school has a historical museum is astonishing and was unlike any museum I have toured before. Although it was not huge it was filled with boundless Black history. Manuscripts of the first Black publications and books were all housed in Howard's museum.

The NNPAF still had much to show and tell the interns as we prepared for the final day of Black Press Week at the National Press Club during the last luncheon with a panel of dynamic NNPAF members.

My presumption that the panel would present and expand on the common clichés of the black community was unfulfilled because they dug much deeper than that.

George Curry, whom I grew much admiration for over the week, was among the seven panelists. They had much to say about voting issues, racism issues, and addressed an important and perplexing concern: Is Black journalism dead?

As the panelists gave

their take on the same issues, the intelligence of each of them came through the power of their words.

"The power of voting is tremendous," said one.

"Black people have to be twice as good to succeed," said another.

The panelists concluded that Black journalism was indeed not dead and was now in the hands of the younger generation. But are we ready? That was a question that was up for debate as one of the panelists stated the "future of the Black press is shaky" because the younger generations do not know our history.

As one of the future Black journalists, I assure The Chronicle and the NNPAF that I am committed to continuing and elevating the legacy of the Black Press that the first- and second-generation successors have bravely set in place for us.

The other interns of NNPAF share my same mindset. We will not let you all down.