

## City Commission Votes "Veterans Pk." As Name

ALBANY, Ga. (AP)—The City Commission last week voted to rename a park "Veterans Park" after Vietnam veterans vocally opposed a proposal to name it after the late C.B. King, a black attorney who paved the way for civil rights demonstrations in Albany during the 1960s.

The commission voted 4-2 to name it Veterans Park, with two black commissioners voting against the name. One black commissioner, Charles Sherrod, proposed naming the park "C.B. King Veterans Park," but the proposal failed.

Sherrod wanted the name changed to C.B. King Park to honor the prominent Albany attorney. King died March 15 while undergoing treatment for cancer in Tijuana, Mexico. He was 64.

The park, located in a bucolic setting along the Flint River, has an amphitheater and paths along the riverbank. It had previously been known as Riverfront Park.

Members of the local chapter of the Veterans of the Vietnam War said racial considerations should have no bearing on the name selection.

"We feel this park should be honoring all veterans, not just one man," said Eddie Seyfarth, 39, vice commander of the local VVW post.

"Our main goal is to unite the Vietnam veterans with his brothers and find the peace of mind they've been searching for," said John G. Griffin, 40, of Poulan, the post commander.

Griffin said a contingent of veterans would attend the commission meeting to argue against the Sherrod proposal. Residents favoring the C.B. King proposal also were expected to attend.

Besides the new name, Bays has promised the veterans a \$1,000 contribution to help them erect a Vietnam War memorial. The VVW has picked Albany as the site for its national convention next year.

The mayor announced the decision to name the park Veterans Park during a ceremony on March 9, marking the arrival of the Moving Wall, a reproduction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The wall was on display in Albany through March 14.

Bays said he and four commissioners had signed a pledge to support the name change. Sherrod and Williams did not sign the pledge.

Sherrod and Williams were acquitted recently on their charges stemming from allegations that they had cheated on their city expense accounts. They were defended by members of C.B. King's law firm.

Calls to Sherrod's home went unanswered Tuesday afternoon. A

secretary at Williams' insurance office said he was out.

Bays said in an interview that he plans to meet soon with Carol King, the attorney's widow, to discuss a suitable memorial to honor her husband.

King helped defend the Rev. Martin Luther King and Ralph Abernathy during civil rights demonstrations of the early 1960s and was successful in having an injunction lifted in June 1964 that had blocked public protests in Albany.

"I find it particularly unforgivable that a few people would take such a tragic event as the death of C.B. King and try to use it for political gains," said the mayor, noting that Sherrod has vowed to continue his opposition.

"I would hope and pray for the sake of the [King] family that he would not continue to do this," said the mayor. "It's certainly not for their benefit, it's got to be for his own."

"Some have run their political careers by screaming racism, but the record clearly speaks for itself," Bays added, noting that Albany within the last year has named its first black police chief, its first black recorder court judge and its first black public defender.

"This town has changed. Its attitudes have changed tremendously and we've got some people who don't want to see change," the mayor said. "A few people don't know how to deal with this."

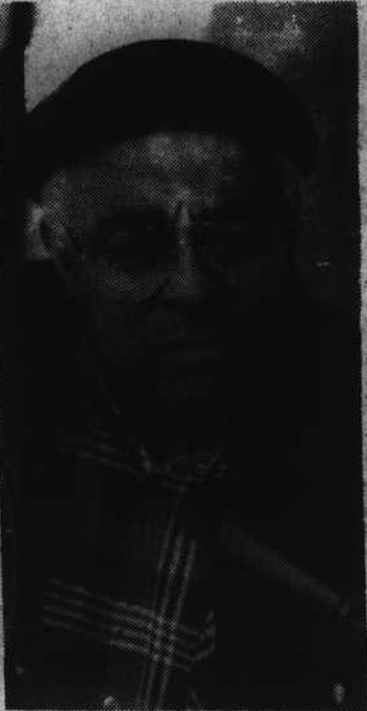
### LAWYER WON'T GIVE UP

LAVONIA, Ga. (AP)—Some black attorneys in Georgia have called on Lavonia attorney Andrew J. Hill, Jr. to give up his bid for president of the state bar of Georgia because of his use of a racial slur in a conversation with another attorney.

Hill, who is also secretary of the legal group, said he was "just kidding" and will not withdraw or resign. Earlier this month, Hill told a colleague he had joked with retired Superior Court Judge W. Colbert Hawkins, saying, "Now listen, Colbert, we don't want any nigger cases up here like you had down in Millen." Hawkins presided over a celebrated child custody case involving a mixed-race child born to a white woman.

Hill made the remark in the presence of a reporter and photographer from the Fulton County Daily Report, an Atlanta legal newspaper, which reported the conversation.

"I don't intend to resign as secretary, and I don't intend to withdraw as a candidate, and I believe that's all I have to say," he commented.



**REGULAR GUEST**—Kenneth Murray ponders for a moment while appearing on WSHA's "Foresight." Murray is a regular guest on the show which airs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. (Photo by Talib Sabir-Calloway)

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### VIEWPOINTS

(Continued from page 4)

Most folks that I know are very happy that Gov. Jim Martin is supporting those initiatives and that his Minority Executives Council is bringing before him. That the council's primary concerns are the affairs and well-being of our state's minority population, is a given. The governor especially established the council to advise him on such matters. But why would Gov. Jim Martin heed the council and other black leadership voices around our state? Because he knows what apparently Bob Jordan does not. The things that black leadership are asking him as governor to support are good for our state's minority community and more important they are, overall, good for all of North Carolina.

Finally, let's not forget that racial epithets being what they are, have a negative purpose: refer to this group by calling it something racially offensive, call it a name when addressing the other group and vice versa. For black North Carolinians especially, the question becomes unavoidable, "In closed-door meetings with us, behind our backs, if Bob Jordan is calling white folks 'rednecks' what is he calling us, behind our backs, when he is meeting with white folks?" So the only thing left for us to decide come November of this year is, do we really want an acknowledged redneck to become the next governor of our state?

### EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 4)

all Americans and other people throughout the world.

"Imagine life without the subway, the traffic light, and the elevator," Congressman Flake said. "Think of how the progress of industry might have been hampered if railroads did not have the braking and electrical systems they have today and if cities were not equipped with electrical systems. These advances and thousands of other inventions were the contributions of black Americans, many of whom have not been given proper credit for their work because of their race."

In 1890, Jan Ernst Matzeliger invented the shoe lasting machine which revolutionized the shoe industry. Prior to this invention shoes were made by hand. The shoe lasting machine automatically stitched the leather of the shoe to the sole and could make 1,000 pair of shoes a day compared to the 40 or 50 that could be made by hand.

Before Elijah McCoy invented the lubricator cup in 1870, all motorized machinery had to be brought to a complete stop so that it could be oiled by hand. McCoy's invention made machine lubrication automatic. The result was a

significant reduction in time and labor costs and substantially increased business profits. Subsequently, everyone interested in buying machinery questioned whether it had "the real McCoy," and that popular expression has continued in use today to indicate genuine quality.

Therefore it is fitting that the birthday of Elijah McCoy, who so modernized the industrial world, should be designated "National Black American Inventors Day," in recognition of the contributions of these gifted men and women.

"The passage of this legislation illustrates the broad support for accurately disseminating information on the contributions of black Americans," Congressman Flake said. "By providing recognition of the accomplishments of these black Americans we learn respect for each other which is the foundation for long-term cooperation of all races."

Congressman Flake continued, "The very passage of this legislation with the broad cooperation of my colleagues across this great country and from every ethnic background reflects hope for the future as we all strive to work toward interracial cooperation."

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