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Defense Chief Urged To Grant Heroes Medals

BY CHESTER A. HIGGINS, SR.
NNPA News Editor

WASHINGTON, D.C.—One hundred three congressmen have joined Rep. Joe DiGuardi (D-N.Y.) in pressuring Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci to reverse a lower level Pentagon decision refusing to grant the Congressional Medal of Honor to any black Americans from either the first or second world wars.

The congressmen sent a joint letter to Carlucci asking him to serve justice and reverse decisions by lower-ranking officials in both the Navy and Army. DiGuardi and Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Texas) are leading the congressional effort to grant black World War I hero Sgt. Henry Johnson, of the Army, and black World War II hero Dorrie Miller, of the Navy, the nation's highest military honor.

Although more than 1.5 million blacks fought in those wars, not one has been awarded the Medal of Honor. In 1987, DiGuardi and Leland introduced legislation to correct the injustice by opening the statute of limitations for the two specific servicemen. Both the Army and the Navy announced in May that they would oppose the legislation.

(See HEROES MEDALS, P. 2)



ROYAL REGALIA—Eddie Murphy, Hollywood's hottest star returns with a mostly princely role, "Coming To America." Color and pageantry fills this story of an African prince who leaves the bride chosen for him, and goes to New York in search of an American wife. Murphy wrote the script "Coming to America" out of frustration with other less appealing scripts.

Inmates win Degrees, Top Honors And Write History

From CAROLINIAN Staff Reports

For the first time in the 120-year history of state-operated prisons in North Carolina, inmates received four-year college degrees that were earned totally within prison walls recently.

Three inmates at the North Carolina Correctional Center for Women received their four-year baccalaureate degrees from Shaw University during graduation ceremonies in the prison's Chapel for the Nameless Woman on June 24.

Another five inmates received two-year associate degrees from the Raleigh-based school at the same ceremony.

Through Shaw's Center for Alternative Programs in Education, inmates are given an opportunity to earn an undergraduate degree and to improve their chances for success once they leave prison.

In addition to giving inmates tools for coping on the outside, NCCW Superintendent Fay Lassiter says the program has a lasting effect on an in-

mate's personal outlook: "I often hear the women say, 'Gee, I didn't know I was that smart!'"

The CAPE program was begun at NCCCW four years ago. It has since expanded to Central Prison in Raleigh and the Eastern Correctional Center in Maury.

According to Correction Secretary Aaron J. Johnson, "This program is an excellent example of the private and public sectors working together to address a serious social problem."

(See INMATES, P. 2)

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Operation Pipeline

Drug Arrests Increase

Illicit Possession Of Drugs

Drug-related arrests continue to rise on the state's highways, according to Crime Control and Public Safety Secretary Joseph W. Dean.

During the first quarter of 1988, troopers preferred 883 drug-related charges (an average of 294 per month) in the combined categories of driving while impaired (drugs other than alcohol), possession of illicit drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. This represents an increase of more than 20 percent as compared to the same period in 1987, according to Dean.

Col. J.F. Cardwell, commander of the State Highway Patrol, said, "These figures represent drug-related charges that were made as a result of normal patrol activity." They are in addition to the patrol's drug interdiction program, Operation Pipeline, which began in May 1986. Pipeline has resulted in the confiscation of 65,870 grams of cocaine, 1,307 pounds of marijuana and more than \$1.3 million in U.S. currency.

The most recent confiscation of currency was a single seizure of \$85,000 which occurred on June 6. Col. Cardwell added, "Troopers will continue to be on the alert for drug violations during the course of their normal duties."



NEW ISSUES—WRAL-TV public affairs director Wallye Rasulala will moderate a new issue-oriented public affairs program called "Assignment: Sunday." The program will air Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. following "CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt."

Presidential Candidate Fulani Expresses Support For Brawley

Independent presidential candidate Dr. Lenora Fulani, at Bethany Baptist Church, 460 Marcus Garvey Blvd., in Brooklyn, N.Y., recently expressed her support for Tawana Brawley, the black teenager who was allegedly attacked by six white men eight months ago in Dutchess County, N.Y.

Dr. Fulani was joined by Dr. Andrew Nicola-McLaughlin, a professor of humanities at Medgar Evers College.

"Over 30 years ago, an ordinary black woman named Rosa Parks decided that she wasn't going to cooperate with a system that was unjust, even if it meant she had to go to jail," says Dr. Fulani. "Her standing up to a racist establishment sparked a movement that did away with legal segregation across the South."

"Today, Tawana Brawley and her family and supporters are challenging an unjust system that is weighted heavily against the poor."

Dr. Fulani noted that "Despite the intransigence of Gov. Mario Cuomo, New York State Attorney General Robert Abrams and the Democratic Party establishment, who would like to see Tawana jailed, we know that this courageous young woman is fighting on behalf of millions of women of color who are abused daily. Tawana is fighting for all people who are locked out of the system and denied justice, and we support her 100 percent."

Glenda Brawley, mother of the girl, took refuge at the 2,000-member church two weeks ago after she refused to respond to a subpoena to appear before a grand jury investigating the case. Ms. Brawley was sentenced to a 30-day jail term and fined \$250 in absentia. The Brawleys and their attorneys, C. Vernon Mason and Alton Maddox, Jr., and Rev. Al Sharpton, family advisor, have refused to cooperate with the investigation being directed by Gov. Cuomo, charging that New York state officials are engaged in a coverup of the case.

In November, Dr. Fulani, the first black woman ever to receive federal primary matching funds, will become the first African-American and the first woman in U.S. history to be on the ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. She calls her campaign "a crusade for fair elections."

Dr. Fulani said, "The media and the powers that be in this state have mocked the Brawleys' decision—made in consultation with their attorneys and advisors—to withhold testimony in the absence of the appointment of a special prosecutor. In case anyone wonders why the Brawleys do not trust the courts to give Tawana a fair hearing, take a look at how she, like all women of color, is talked about."

"At best the corporate media project us as helpless, passive, terrified (See TAWANA BRAWLEY, P. 2)

Father Of 35 Preaches What He Practices, Takes In Children

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—He's a bachelor who long ago traded the solitary life for 15 loads of wash every day, a four-figure grocery bill every month and enough sons, and daughters to fill a classroom, 35 in all.

Meet Kojo Odo. Adoptive father. Tenacious fighter. A man who takes in children no one else wants: the abused, the abandoned, the sickly, the scarred. It doesn't matter. Odo finds a place for each in his heart.

In his private life, Odo gives unwanted kids a home and hope. In his public life, he urges others to do the same.

As Ohio's administrator for special adoptions, Odo works to find homes for children, especially those hard to place. He needed no training for this job. His life is his resume.

In 15 years, Odo has almost single-handedly raised 35 children. Seven sons now live on their own; the 21 sons and seven daughters who share his 10-bedroom home range from 6 to 22.

"The kids are my dreams," he said. "They bring me a level of satisfaction and achievement. You can take my life... my money... my car. You can burn down my house.

You can't take away whatever I helped my kids achieve."

The achievements for some of the children include walking with crutches after doctors predicted lifetimes in wheelchairs, or living when they were supposed to die.

If this seems like a miracle, it isn't—Odo says love and stability are all-important. If it sounds inspirational, it is.

"If you have the capacity to raise... and deal with all those children, you're definitely a credible individual," said co-worker Carol Hector-Harris. "Someone who lives it as well as works it: they're believable."

Odo says he is proof people needn't be "mainstream America" to adopt a child.

In a gray flannel world of button-down bureaucrats, Odo, 48, favors knee-high boots, a knit skullcap and thick, clanging silver bracelets. Ten golden earrings circle one ear, a gold ring pierces a nostril and a jeweled stud sits smack dab in the middle of his chin.

Odo, former civil rights activist and teacher, originally planned to adopt children once he married.

When he was ready, however, he was still single. And adoption posed many obstacles to a single black man.

After a long investigation, Odo received his first child—a seven-year-old, one-armed boy. "He had had seven placements in seven years," he recalled. "He was emotionally scarred right to the heart... but a survivor."

Once when Odo hoisted his son up to a mirror, the boy broke into tears. Odo thought he was hurting him. Then he found the problem.

"He had always been told he would grow an arm," Odo said. "When he didn't grow an arm, he stopped looking in the mirror."

(See CHILDREN, P. 2)

Legislators Plan Fund To Aid Needy Students

Shaw University and Saint Augustine's College hosted a joint reception for the executive committee of the National Caucus of Black State Legislators and were informed historically black colleges in North Carolina would receive funds to aid

BE SURE TO VOTE TUESDAY JUNE 28th!



DRUG RALLY—The Prince Hall Masons recently sponsored a "Just Say No" to drugs rally for the Chavis Heights community in Southeast Raleigh. The rally was held at the Chavis Heights gymnasium. Speakers included Dr. Robert Bridges, superintendent of Wake County Public schools; Rev.

Ronald Avery, Wake County jailer, and pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church; Capt. Otis Minton of Raleigh Police Department; Ralph Campbell, Jr., Raleigh City Councilman; and Jack Jeffries of Wake County Alcohol Treatment Center. The program targeted area teenagers.

National Minority Center For History Opens New Horizons

DURHAM—The North Carolina Center for the Study of Black History, the first of its kind in the United States, has been formed and will receive a \$30,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Floyd B. McKissick, Sr., president and chairman of the board of directors, says the center will fill a void in the state and country by providing research, documentation and dissemination of significant black contributions to the state.

North Carolina Central University in Durham will house the center.

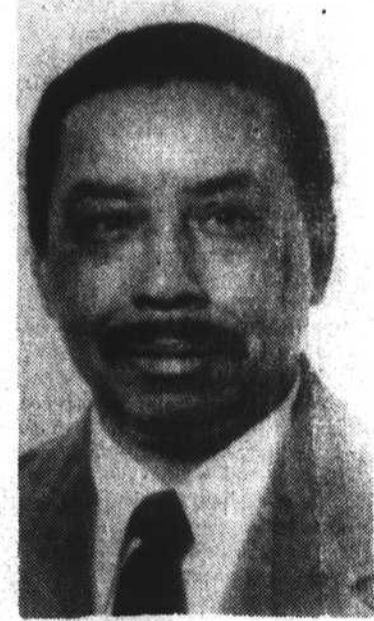
Many North Carolina blacks were particularly active in the national civil rights movement of the 1960s, an era that the center plans to emphasize in its activities. The state has the seventh-largest population in percent (22.4) of blacks in America.

The non-profit, tax-exempt organization also will establish an archive of records for scholars and the public; research the history of blacks in the Caribbean, Africa and elsewhere as related to North Carolina blacks; produce print and audiovisual materials about black history and prominent citizens and their contributions; and produce radio programs to educate and entertain audiences with the history and importance of blacks in North Carolina and in the United States.

According to McKissick, spokesperson, staff from the center will develop and help teach a series of interdisciplinary classes at N.C. Central and other state colleges and universities. Classes will be available in both regular and continuing education programs to help students understand the role of blacks in history, music, education, economics, psychology and other fields. The center will host a scholars-in-residence program to further develop the black leaders and teachers of the future.

A board of directors will develop policy for the center. McKissick, chairman of the board, is well known

for his participation in the civil rights movement. McKissick served as national director of the Congress on



FLOYD B. MCKISSICK, SR.

Racial Equality, and developed Soul City, near Oxford in Granville County. Other board members include Doris Terry Williams of Manson; Dan Pollitt, UNC School of Law; Malcolm Corrin, Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, New York; Lisbon C. Berry, Wilmington; Grady Davis, Raleigh; Ben Ruffin, RJR Nabisco, Winston-Salem; and Beverly Jones and Benjamin Speller, both of NCCU.

L.B. Frasier and Hortense McClinton of Durham; Jake Phelps, Hillsborough; and Ben Chavis, executive director of the Commission for Racial Justice for the United Church of Christ, New York, will also serve on the center's board.

Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, Inc., was established in 1936 for the benefit of the people of North Carolina. The foundation has made

(See FLOYD MCKISSICK, P. 2)