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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

August 20 - 26, 2020

Michelle Obama's speech to the Democratic convention

Good evening, everyone. It's a hard time, and everyone's feeling it in different ways. And I know a lot of folks are reluctant to tune into a political convention right now or to politics in general. Believe me, I get that. But I am here tonight because I love this country with all my heart, and it pains me to see so many people hurting.

I've met so many of you. I've heard your stories. And through you, I have seen this country's promise. And thanks to so many who came before me, thanks to their toil and sweat and blood, I've been able to live that promise myself.

That's the story of America. All those folks who sacrificed and overcame so much in their own times because they wanted something more, something better for their kids.

There's a lot of beauty in that story. There's a lot of pain in it, too, a lot of struggle and injustice and work left to do. And who we choose as our president in this election will determine whether or not we honor that struggle and chip away at that injustice and keep alive the very possibility of finishing that work.

I am one of a handful of people living today who have seen firsthand the immense weight and awesome power of the presidency. And let me once again tell you this: the job is hard.

It requires clear-headed judgment, a mastery of complex and competing issues, a devotion to facts and history, a moral compass, and an ability to listen — and an abiding belief that each of the 330,000,000 lives in this country has meaning and worth.

A president's words have the power to move markets. They can start wars or broker peace. They can summon our better angels or awaken our worst instincts. You simply cannot fake your way through this job.

As I've said before, being president doesn't change who you are; it reveals who you are. Well, a presidential election can reveal who we are, too. And four years ago, too many people chose to believe that their votes didn't matter. Maybe they were fed up. Maybe they thought the outcome wouldn't be close. Maybe the barriers felt too steep. Whatever the reason, in the end, those choices sent someone to the Oval Office who lost the national popular vote by nearly 3,000,000 votes.

In one of the states that determined the outcome, the winning margin averaged out to just two votes per precinct — two votes. And we've all been living with the consequences.

When my husband left office with Joe Biden at his side, we had a record-breaking stretch of job creation. We'd secured the right to



Former First Lady's Michelle Obama's speech to the Democratic National Convention, as broadcast Aug. 17, 2020: (Democratic National Convention via AP)

health care for 20,000,000 people. We were respected around the world, rallying our allies to confront climate change. And our leaders had worked hand-in-hand with scientists to help prevent an Ebola outbreak from becoming a global pandemic.

Four years later, the state of this nation is very different. More than 150,000 people have died, and our economy is in shambles because of a virus that this president downplayed for too long. It has left millions of people jobless. Too many have lost their health care; too many are struggling to take care of basic necessities like food and rent; too many commu-

nities have been left in the lurch to grapple with whether and how to open our schools safely. Internationally, we've turned our back, not just on agreements forged by my husband, but on alliances championed by presidents like Reagan and Eisenhower.

And here at home, as George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and a never-ending list of innocent people of color continue to be murdered, stating the simple fact that a Black life matters is still met with derision from the nation's highest office.

Because whenever we look to this White House for some leadership or consola-

tion or any semblance of steadiness, what we get instead is chaos, division and a total and utter lack of empathy.

Empathy: That's something I've been thinking a lot about lately. The ability to walk in someone else's shoes; the recognition that someone else's experience has value, too. Most of us practice this without a second thought. If we see someone suffering or struggling, we don't stand in judgment. We reach out because, "There, but for the grace of God, go I." It is not a hard concept to grasp. It's what we teach our children.

And like so many of you,

Barack and I have tried our best to instill in our girls a strong moral foundation to carry forward the values that our parents and grandparents poured into us. But right now, kids in this country are seeing what happens when we stop requiring empathy of one another. They're looking around wondering if we've been lying to them this whole time about who we are and what we truly value.

They see people shouting in grocery stores, unwilling to wear a mask to keep us all safe. They see people calling the police on folks

Cont. Michelle Page 6

Democrats nominate Biden for epic challenge to oust Trump

By STEVE PEOPLES, MICHELLE L. PRICE and ALEXANDRA JAFFE



(Brian Snyder/Pool via AP)

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Democrats formally nominated Joe Biden as their presidential candidate Tuesday night, with party elders, a new generation of politicians and voters in every state joining together in an extraordinary, pandem-

ic-cramped virtual convention to send him into the general election campaign to oust President Donald Trump.

For someone who has spent more than three decades eyeing the presidency, the moment was the real-

ization of a long-sought goal. But it played out in a way that the 77-year-old Biden couldn't have imagined just months ago as the coronavirus pandemic prompted profound change across the country and in his presidential campaign.

Instead of a Milwaukee convention hall as initially planned, the roll call of convention delegates played out in a combination of live and recorded video feeds from American landmarks packed with meaning: Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the headwaters of the Mississippi River, a Puerto Rican community still recovering from a hurricane and Washington's Black Lives Matter Plaza.

Biden celebrated his new status as the Democratic nominee alongside his wife and grandchildren in a Delaware school library. His wife of more than 40 years,

Jill Biden, later spoke of her husband in deeply personal terms, reintroducing the lifelong politician as a man of deep empathy, faith and resilience to American voters less than three months before votes are counted.

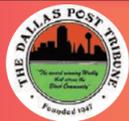
"There are times when I couldn't imagine how he did it — how he put one foot in front of the other and kept going," she said. "But I've always understood why he did it. He does it for you."

The convention's most highly anticipated moments will unfold on the next two nights. Kamala Harris will accept her nomination as Biden's running mate on

Wednesday, the first Black woman to join a major party ticket. Former President Barack Obama will also speak as part of his stepped-up efforts to defeat his successor.

Biden will deliver his acceptance speech Thursday night in a mostly empty convention hall near his Delaware home.

Biden used the second night of the four-day convention to feature a mix of party elders, Republican as well as Democratic, to make the case that he has the experience and energy to repair chaos that Trump has created at home and abroad.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Voter Suppression. The Birth of Apathy

By *Allen R. Gray*
Dallas Area African American Newspaper Publishers

It is difficult to determine where the line between voter suppression ends and voter apathy begins. What is certain, though, is that the line of demarcation between the two has been blurred by decades upon decades of interference from damning schemes that strip Black Americans of their legal right to have a say when it comes to elections.

Know that voter apathy for Black voter apathy is not innate. It is instead a psychological implant that has been nurtured over time and has evolved over generations due to the many mutations of the poll tax. The poll tax wasn't born during post-Civil War Reconstruction, though. The concept of the poll tax dates to the time of Cleopatra's Egypt, and essentially all conquering nations since that time have used a "head tax" or capitation to sustain its government and fund wars; but Americans during the 19th century took the poll tax to a whole new level.

During the period of Reconstruction, when newly freed slaves gained the right to vote, various forms of the poll tax became a lot more creative than guessing the number of jelly beans in a mason jar. The Grandfather clause, for instance, said that you could only vote if your father voted. Which meant that all former slaves were left out. Then there was the literacy test, which asked that you be able to read (literature supplied by election officials) before you could vote. Blacks were asked to read complex legal documents, while whites were asked to read literature with simple sight words. The voting dilemma became even more compounded when we consider that only people who qualified to vote prior to the Civil War, or whose ancestors qualified to vote were allowed to cast ballots during elections. This requirement eliminated an entire nation of newly freed slaves. White men, of course, were exempt from the rigors of poll taxation in any form. These methods of suppression towards Blacks sustained well into the early 1900s.

The monetary poll tax, which is perhaps the most infamous of all poll taxes, often ranged anywhere from \$1.50 and greater per voter. That doesn't seem like much by today's standards—but when you consider that in 1905 the average Black family earned around \$3 per week, sirloin steaks were 10 cents a pound and the homes sold for approximately \$3,500—potential voters were forced to decide whether to vote or feed their families.

These insidious measures worked to suppress the Black vote for more than a century, despite legislation that mandated otherwise. The "Reconstruction Amendments" attempted to rectify Blacks' right to vote. The 13th Amendment (1865) freed the slaves; the 14th Amendment (1866) gave Blacks citizenship. (The Black Codes, laws aimed at oppressing Blacks, were also enacted in 1865.) The 15th Amendment (1870) outlawed discrimination in voting rights but it had no penalties for violating of those rights. So, in 1870, the Enforcement Act attempted to give teeth to laws that had bark but no bite.

After decades of protest and civil unrest, the House passed the 24th

Amendment in 1962 eradicating the poll tax for federal elections. Then the landmark Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965 that sought to secure Blacks' right to vote unencumbered. Yet, voter suppression in some form lingered, nonetheless. In 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Harper v. Virginia Board of Elections* also rendered the poll tax unconstitutional for state and local elections. Yet, as recently as 2013, that same U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Shelby v. Holder* that states had the right to do things like limit early voting and require voters to show photo IDs.

The spirit of Jim Crow laws has proven to be that revenant who can mutate and transform depending on the climate and circumstance. While in the past voter suppression was much more obvious, today's systemic racism has a more covert means of undermining the voting rights of targeted demographic groups.

Today, we would be hard-pressed to find the Ku Klux Klan at polling places burning crosses and crops to turn voters away, but contemporary methods of suppression have proven to be just as effective acts of violence. Here are some contemporary tactics used to turn voters away from election polls:

- **Voter ID requirements** allow election officials to use false claims of rampant voter fraud to justify strict requirements like a photo ID, or laws requiring a physical street address discriminate against minorities groups that are more likely to have P.O. Box addresses, such as Native Americans living on reservations.
- **Lack of language access**, where election officials refuse to translate materials or offer language assistance (as required by law), which suppresses the voting of Asian Americans and Latinos. **Voter roll purges**, claims to remove duplicate names, the names of the deceased, or the names of convicted felons. The purge actually deletes the names of millions of eligible voters and disproportionately affects communities of color.
- **Polling place closures/consolidations**, where election officials have closed thousands of polling places, largely in communities of color. Recently in Chicago's Cook County alone, which has the largest non-Hispanic black population in the country, 95 polling places were either closed or moved.
- **Lack of funding for elections**, demonstrated its affect when during the 2000 presidential election in Florida there was failure in the recount process, flawed ballot designs, and voting machines that overheated and failed.
- **Provisional ballot requirements**, if a voter's eligibility is in question they may use a provisional ballot to be counted until eligibility is confirmed. However, localities determine

how many provisional ballots are printed, which meant that in certain localities far less were printed than were actually needed.

- **Reduced early voting**, early voting is essential to hourly workers who don't have expendable time, because of work or child care obligations. Recently, time apportioned to early voting has been drastically cut which negatively affects communities of color.
- **Reduced regular voting hours**, negatively affects low-income workers, who don't have the convenience of arriving to work late or taking extended midday breaks; or who are strapped due to child-care arrangements.

Other means of suppression are poorly trained volunteer poll workers, partisan election administrators, and the creation of at-large local offices to dilute the minority vote.

These tactics of voter suppression have proven to be particularly fruitful in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and especially Texas. In the wake of this century-long onslaught on voter suppression a toll has been taken on Black voters.

In 1890, the qualified Black voters registered to have their voice heard was at 90 percent. By 1940, only 3 percent of qualified Black voters were registered. Today, less than half of all registered Black voters regularly participate in elections. Although, if Blacks have someone they feel is worth voting they have shown to be less apathetic. With Obama on the ticket in 2008 and 2012, the number of Blacks that voted rose tremendously. Yet when they needed to vote the most in 2016, Black voter turnout fell drastically. And eight percent of the Blacks that did vote that year voted for Trump. Political districts with a relative low percentage of registered Blacks voting is routinely high, compared to districts with a greater percentage of registered Blacks where the voting is repulsively low; and Black women tend to vote more than Black men.

Since 1865 to the present, the provocateurs of this most insidious scheme have done a most commendable job of implanting the spirit of apathy deep within the psyche of African American voters—while the victims have proven to do very little to assuage its effects.

There is, however, a ray of hope for the minority voters. From 2014 to 2018 Blacks have had the highest voter turnout upsurge of all demographic groups, with an increase greater than 18 percent. The status of Black voting isn't what it used to be 20 years ago, but it surely isn't what it was in 1890.

The issue of Jim Crow being dead has been greatly overstated. He has merely changed his name to systemic racism, a more covert method of depriving citizens seeking to be heard at polling places. If ever there was a time to shake off the effects of the psychological implant know as apathy, the time is now.

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Morning Worship 10:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

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Devotional Service 6:30 p.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY
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A Journey Through the Gospel of St. John

"A Pathetic Scene, but A Powerful Christ"

St. John 5:1-15

The scene before us is very solemn and one to be pitied, indeed. The location of this scene takes place in Jerusalem at the pool of Bethesda, a pool around which laid a variegated crowd of the helpless and hopeless victims (5:1-3). These suffering victims anxiously waited for the moving of the waters (v. 3). In reading about this solemn and sad scene, it appeared to me, even if the waters were stirred, the state of each victim was of such that someone still needed to help them in the pool. What a pitiful scene – a scene that depicts the awful state to which sin can bring you! These poor and miserable congregants around the pool of Bethesda were described as impotent folks, blind, halt, and withered (v. 3). Notice carefully that these poor congregants are a vivid picture of unsaved individuals today: who have no strength (impotent) Romans 5:6; who

can't see (blind) Ephesians 4:18; who can't walk for God (halt) Ephesians 2:2; and certainly could not do any services for God (withered) Ephesians 4:19. Yes, oh yes, an unsaved person (one who has not accepted the claims of the Gospel - I Corinthians 15:3-4), is one who has no strength. Furthermore, he is one who is blind (blind to his own need of a Saviour); he is halt (lame and unable to walk aright for God); and he is withered (paralyzed and unable to do deeds of righteousness for God). And like the poor congregants of the Jerusalem scene, many unsaved ones are still placing their trust in the wrong object, instead of looking to the great Physician of the ages. The poor congregants in Jerusalem had their trust and hope in the pool rather than in the powerful Christ the Son of God. I trust that anyone reading this article might turn to

Christ to heal your sin-sick condition, for only Christ has the power to sufficiently heal you and make you whole! In verses 5 and 6, we have a description of a certain man, who had an infirmity of thirty-eight years (v. 5), and Christ's puzzling question to him – "Wilt thou be made whole?" (v. 6). Through the Lord's matchless sovereign grace, He singled out one man among this helpless and hopeless crowd to manifest His undue compassion. God, in His matchless grace, does not have to vindicate why He chooses, for grace in its full dimensions is a free gift, and none of us deserves it. The fact that you believe now in the Gospel account indicates that you have been showered by God's grace! Christ, the great Physician, asked this man a perplexing question (v. 6). Yet, this man who had been afflicted so long, could only talk about his helpless condition – his

inability to get into the troubled water before others (v. 7). Although the man made no direct cry for the Master's healing, in His sovereign grace, the Master issues a powerful command, and immediately the man was healed of his infirmity (v. 9). Because the healing took place on the Sabbath (v. 9), the man encountered his critics, and later we find him being confronted in the temple by Christ who said – "Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (v. 14). This man who once had a trial of sickness is now testifying that Christ made him whole (v. 15).

May God truly bless!

By **Rev. Johnny C. Smith**
Editorial Columnist



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1	6	2	7	5	4	9	3	8
4	5	8	9	6	3	2	1	7
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NEWS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Dallas police plan changes after examining protest response

DALLAS (AP) — A report released by Dallas police on their response to protests that followed the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis outlines changes the department plans to make, including who can authorize the use of tear gas and how to train for incidents involving mass arrests.

Dallas police released the report late Friday, detailing the first four nights of protests that began May 29 following the death days earlier of Floyd, a Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck. Floyd's death sparked protests around the globe against racial injustice and police brutality.

The report found that Dallas police leaders struggled with operational plans, communication and keeping a unified command structure amid the downtown protests.

Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall said in a meeting Friday with editorial board prior to the report's release that it highlights mistakes.

"Whatever we do as a police department, we'll acknowledge it, we'll fix it, and move forward," Hall said.

The report says that officers for the first two days of protests didn't have clear rules of engagement. The report also noted training shortcomings by commanders who struggled to make rapid decisions.

Images taken of events that weekend showed violent demonstrations resulting in chaos just hours after a peaceful protest began.

The report says that the department is investigating about 50 use-of-force complaints during the four days with help from the Office of Community Police Oversight.

In those four days, two people and six officers reported serious injuries, the report said. A police horse was seriously injured. Three police vehicles were burned and many others were vandalized.

Hall told the newspaper that she's already made some policy changes after reflecting on the department's response.

She formalized a duty-to-intervene policy, which requires officers who witness misconduct to stop and report it. She also issued a department order limiting the use of pepper-ball weapons and other less-lethal ammunition in crowd control.

Dallas ISD kicks off three-week effort to provide every elementary student with an iPad or Chromebook

By the HUB

Dallas ISD gave out about 4,000 iPads and Chromebooks to elementary students at 16 schools on Aug. 17, kicking off a three-week effort to provide every elementary school student with a device prior to the start of school on Sept. 8.

Parents each receive a backpack of supplies for each student. Inside that backpack is the assigned computing device, charger, earbuds, a mobile Internet hotspot if the student doesn't have access to the Internet at home, and basic instructions in both English and Spanish for logging in and how to get technical support.

Parents with a student enrolled at the campus do not need to separately register to pick up a device. A parent with questions regarding their child's enrollment status at the campus should contact the school directly.

Elementary schools will hold make-up distribution date for families who can't make it to the school's assigned day or had not enrolled in the school prior to distribution date. Due to the physical constraints of school driveways and potential traffic impacts, many elementary schools are now holding the device distributions inside the campus. Social distancing best practices are implemented inside the school for device pickup. Families who wish to remain outside the campus to pickup the device can let a district representative at the campus know and will be accommodated.

Each Dallas ISD secondary student should already have been provided a computing device and, if requested, a mobile Internet hotspot. For secondary students who are new to the district—or need their device repaired or replaced—the district will hold events prior to the start of school.

Any Dallas ISD family needing Internet connection can go here for the mobile hotspot request form.

Dallas ISD IT staff will be on elementary campuses from 8 a.m.–5 p.m. and distribute the devices based on the time frames:

Pelosi says postmaster has no plans to restore mail cuts

By LISA MASCARO and ANTHONY IZA-GUIRRE

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Postal Service faced more questions and a federal lawsuit Wednesday over mail disruptions, despite assurances by President Donald Trump's postmaster general of no more service changes until after the November election — a pledge made only after a public outcry.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Postmaster General Louis DeJoy told her he has no intention of restoring removed blue mailboxes or sorting equipment and no plans for employee overtime. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer said officials are withholding information about DeJoy's selection to the job. With the agency in turmoil, civil and voting rights advocates are suing to bring mail operations back to normal.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said she told DeJoy in a phone call that his decision for a temporary pause was "wholly insufficient and does not reverse damage already wreaked."

The uproar over the Postal Service is expected to spill out Friday as DeJoy testifies before the Senate, and Saturday as the House convenes for a rare session. The House is set to vote on legislation to reverse the service changes and provide \$25 billion to shore up operations.

Widespread mail disruptions have stunned Americans and led to warnings that Trump is trying to undermine the Postal Service as he rails against mail-in ballots just as millions of people are trying vote absentee to avoid polling places during the COVID-19 crisis.

Civil and voting rights organizations said Wednesday they are suing to immediately halt the changes and restore operations.

"We never imagined that we would be in this position with one of the oldest and most trusted institutions in our country," said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters.

Kase said even with DeJoy's decision to halt the changes the organization felt it had no choice but to go forward with the others in the lawsuit. "We need guarantees in place that this will not happen again, prior to the election," she said.

Trump leveled more attacks on absentee voting. "IF YOU CAN PROTEST IN PERSON, YOU CAN VOTE IN PERSON!" the president tweeted.

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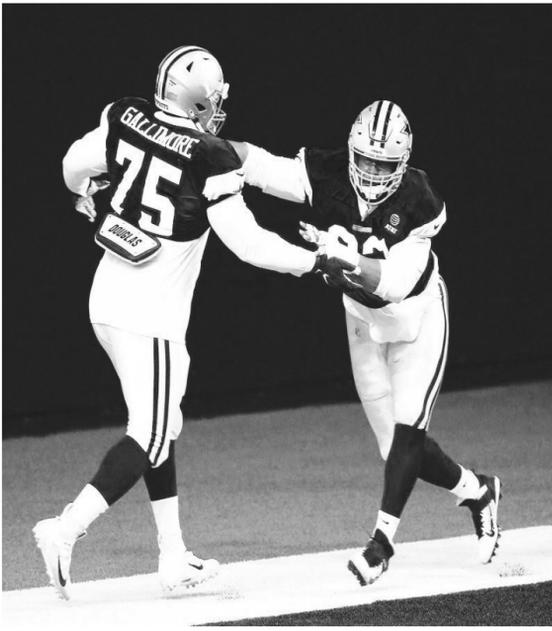
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SPORTS/LOCAL NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for

Thursday, August 20	Friday, August 21	Saturday, August 22	Sunday, August 23	Monday, August 24	Tuesday, August 25	Wednesday, August 26
 H- 93° L- 69°	 H- 96° L- 72°	 H- 97° L- 74°	 H- 98° L- 76°	 H- 98° L- 76°	 H- 97° L- 76°	 H- 97° L- 77°

Cowboys release DT McCoy day after season-ending leg injury



FRISCO, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys released defensive tackle Gerald McCoy on Tuesday, a day after the newcomer sustained a season-ending leg injury.

McCoy tore his right quadriceps muscle Monday while engaging defensive tackle Antwaun Woods during an individual drill. It was the first padded practice of training camp for the Cowboys.

The injury waiver means the Cowboys pay only the \$3 million signing bonus on the \$18 million, three-year contract McCoy signed as a free agent during the offseason.

The 32-year-old McCoy was the first of four significant additions on the defensive line in free agency. He and Dontari Poe were expected to help fill the middle while pass rushers Aldon Smith and Everson Griffen

were added to make things a little easier for DeMarcus Lawrence on the outside.

The Cowboys activated Poe off the physical unable to perform list Tuesday, clearing him for his first practice when workouts resume Thursday. Poe missed the final five games in Carolina last season after tearing a quad muscle. The 30-year-old is going into his ninth season.

McCoy spent his first nine seasons with Tampa Bay. The 2013 All-Pro has made six Pro Bowls and has 59 1/2 sacks in 10 seasons. McCoy was in Carolina last year.

The Cowboys also signed offensive tackle Pace Murphy.

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2020 August History My Day A Week in August

The month of August has some wondrous significant dates. However, we know that history is made every day, ever evolving and ever full of surprises that needs recording. Herewith is a week in August that packs the shaping of African Americans with consistent consecutive history memories:

August 6: President Lyndon Johnson signs the voting rights bill in 1965.

August 7: Ralph Bunche was born in 1903. He was the first African American Noble Prize winner.

August 8: Explorers are often missed in our history, but Matthew A. Henson was the first to reach the North Pole. He was born in 1865.

August 9: African American Inventors are seldom acknowledged in our history also, but Annie Turnbo Malone, was the first to invent the pressing comb in 1900. She was born in 1869.

August 11: Senator Kamala Harris, the first Women of Color, is

announced as the Vice President running mate to the presumptive nominee, Joe Biden, President of the United States. This historic announcement is made on **Tuesday, August 11, 2020, eighty-eight(88) days** before the national election in 2020. Early comments are that Senator Harris is the 'best candidate' to compliment the Former Vice President -turn -apparent front runner, President-to-be. Highly known in the Democratic field, Senator Harris of California, has had the presidency on her mind for over a year now. After all, she was one of 22 Democratic candidates who lined up for the job. She later dropped out of running citing 'money handicaps'. On the light side as common remark about the potential Vice President is about her laugh. Most of her close peers, speak of her laugh, 'that deep, body shaking laugh of hers'. Senator Harris has remained among the top-polling Democrats trending now more than two(2)years.

Senator Harris' parents came to America, both immigrants, to attend the University of California. Shyamala

Gopalan, Harris' mother, came from India to receive her PhD in Nutrition and Endocrinology. Her father, Donald Harris, came from Jamaica to study economics. Ironically her parents met in the 1960s in the civil rights movement.

Most amazingly, on this same date, General Colin Powell is nominated as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989. As you know, General Colin Powell, is a Jamaican American Military Official and Diplomat.

August 11: The Watts Riots start in 1965.

August 12: Born into slavery in 1818, Frederick Douglass' home in Washington DC, in 1922 is declared a national memorial.

As usual, I am out of time and space. And . . . the rest is history.

Esterdavis2000@gmail.com

Picture book on Kamala Harris coming Aug. 25

NEW YORK (AP) — That didn't take long: Just weeks after making history as the running mate for Democratic nominee Joe Biden, Sen. Kamala Harris will be the subject of a new picture book.

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing announced Wednesday that prize-winning author Nikki Grimes has written "Kamala Harris: Rooted in Justice," which features illustrations by Laura Freeman. The book comes out August 25.

In June, Simon & Schuster published "Joey: The Story of Joe Biden," a picture book written in part by his wife, Jill Biden.

Harris, a California Democrat, is the first Black woman and first Asian American woman named to a major party presidential ticket. Later on Wednesday, she was scheduled to accept her nomination at the Democratic National Convention.

Congresswoman Johnson Holds Virtual Meeting with DFW U.S. Postal Service Leadership



Dallas, TX— Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson virtually met with Dallas County Postmaster, Yulonda Francis-Love; Dallas District Manager, Scott Hooper; and Manager of Retail/Marketing, Joanne Scarpelli to hear how the federal government could better support the safeguarding processes,

operational needs, and service standards of the DFW United States Postal Service (USPS). "During this pandemic it is critical that the operation of the USPS be protected. Residents and businesses in Dallas and across the country rely on it to receive their medication, bills, and other important documents in a

timely, safe, and reliable fashion," said Congresswoman Johnson. "After my meeting with Dallas County USPS officials, I am pleased to know that they will continue to service our communities as they have always done. Later this week, with my strong support, House Democrats will introduce a bill, H.R. 8015,

the "Delivering for America Act," that will prohibit Postal Service from implementing or approving any changes to the operations or service levels in effect on January 1, 2020, that would impede prompt, reliable, and efficient service."

So, it is up to us to add our voices and our votes to the course of history, echoing heroes like John Lewis who said, "When You see something that is not right, you must say something, You must do something."

continued from page 1

minding their own business just because of the color of their skin. They see an entitlement that says only certain people belong here, that greed is good, and winning is everything because as long as you come out on top, it doesn't matter what happens to everyone else. And they see what happens when that lack of empathy is ginned up into outright disdain.

They see our leaders labeling fellow citizens enemies of the state while emboldening torch-bearing white supremacists. They watch in horror as children are torn from their families and thrown into cages, and pepper spray and rubber bullets are used on peaceful protestors for a photo-op.

Sadly, this is the America that is on display for the next generation. A nation that's underperforming not simply on matters of policy but on matters of character. And that's not just disappointing; it's downright infuriating, because I know the goodness and the grace that is out there in households and neighborhoods all across this nation.

And I know that regardless of our race, age, religion, or politics, when we close out the noise and the fear and truly open our hearts, we know that what's going on in this country is just not right. This is not who we want to be.

So what do we do now? What's our strategy? Over the past four years, a lot of people have asked me,

"When others are going so low, does going high still really work?" My answer: going high is the only thing that works, because when we go low, when we use those same tactics of degrading and dehumanizing others, we just become part of the ugly noise that's drowning out everything else. We degrade ourselves. We degrade the very causes for which we fight.

But let's be clear: going high does not mean putting on a smile and saying nice things when confronted by viciousness and cruelty. Going high means taking the harder path. It means scraping and clawing our way to that mountain top. Going high means standing fierce against hatred while remembering that we are one nation under God, and if we want to survive, we've got to find a way to live together and work together across our differences.

And going high means unlocking the shackles of lies and mistrust with the only thing that can truly set us free: the cold hard truth.

So let me be as honest and clear as I possibly can. Donald Trump is the wrong president for our country. He has had more than enough time to prove that he can do the job, but he is clearly in over his head. He cannot meet this moment. He simply cannot be who we need him to be for us. It is what it is.

Now, I understand that my message won't be heard by some people. We live in a nation that is deeply divided, and I am a Black woman

speaking at the Democratic Convention. But enough of you know me by now. You know that I tell you exactly what I'm feeling. You know I hate politics. But you also know that I care about this nation. You know how much I care about all of our children.

So if you take one thing from my words tonight, it is this: if you think things cannot possibly get worse, trust me, they can; and they will if we don't make a change in this election. If we have any hope of ending this chaos, we have got to vote for Joe Biden like our lives depend on it.

I know Joe. He is a profoundly decent man, guided by faith. He was a terrific vice president. He knows what it takes to rescue an economy, beat back a pandemic, and lead our country. And he listens. He will tell the truth and trust science. He will make smart plans and manage a good team. And he will govern as someone who's lived a life that the rest of us can recognize.

When he was a kid, Joe's father lost his job. When he was a young senator, Joe lost his wife and his baby daughter. And when he was vice president, he lost his beloved son. So Joe knows the anguish of sitting at a table with an empty chair, which is why he gives his time so freely to grieving parents. Joe knows what it's like to struggle, which is why he gives his personal phone number to kids overcoming a stutter of their own.

His life is a testament to getting back up, and he is

going to channel that same grit and passion to pick us all up, to help us heal and guide us forward.

Now, Joe is not perfect. And he'd be the first to tell you that. But there is no perfect candidate, no perfect president. And his ability to learn and grow — we find in that the kind of humility and maturity that so many of us yearn for right now. Because Joe Biden has served this nation his entire life without ever losing sight of who he is; but more than that, he has never lost sight of who we are, all of us.

Joe Biden wants all of our kids to go to a good school, see a doctor when they're sick, live on a healthy planet. And he's got plans to make all of that happen. Joe Biden wants all of our kids, no matter what they look like, to be able to walk out the door without worrying about being harassed or arrested or killed. He wants all of our kids to be able to go to a movie or a math class without being afraid of getting shot. He wants all our kids to grow up with leaders who won't just serve themselves and their wealthy peers but will provide a safety net for people facing hard times.

And if we want a chance to pursue any of these goals, any of these most basic requirements for a functioning society, we have to vote for Joe Biden in numbers that cannot be ignored. Because right now, folks who know they cannot win fair and square at the ballot box are doing everything they can to stop us from vot-

ing. They're closing down polling places in minority neighborhoods. They're purging voter rolls. They're sending people out to intimidate voters, and they're lying about the security of our ballots. These tactics are not new.

But this is not the time to withhold our votes in protest or play games with candidates who have no chance of winning. We have got to vote like we did in 2008 and 2012. We've got to show up with the same level of passion and hope for Joe Biden. We've got to vote early, in person if we can. We've got to request our mail-in ballots right now, tonight, and send them back immediately and follow-up to make sure they're received. And then, make sure our friends and families do the same.

We have got to grab our comfortable shoes, put on our masks, pack a brown bag dinner and maybe breakfast too, because we've got to be willing to stand in line all night if we have to.

Look, we have already sacrificed so much this year. So many of you are already going that extra mile. Even when you're exhausted, you're mustering up unimaginable courage to put on those scrubs and give our loved ones a fighting chance. Even when you're anxious, you're delivering those packages, stocking those shelves, and doing all that essential work so that all of us can keep moving forward.

Even when it all feels so overwhelming, working parents are somehow piecing it

all together without child care. Teachers are getting creative so that our kids can still learn and grow. Our young people are desperately fighting to pursue their dreams.

And when the horrors of systemic racism shook our country and our consciences, millions of Americans of every age, every background rose up to march for each other, crying out for justice and progress.

This is who we still are: compassionate, resilient, decent people whose fortunes are bound up with one another. And it is well past time for our leaders to once again reflect our truth.

So, it is up to us to add our voices and our votes to the course of history, echoing heroes like John Lewis who said, "When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something." That is the truest form of empathy: not just feeling, but doing; not just for ourselves or our kids, but for everyone, for all our kids.

And if we want to keep the possibility of progress alive in our time, if we want to be able to look our children in the eye after this election, we have got to reassert our place in American history. And we have got to do everything we can to elect my friend, Joe Biden, as the next president of the United States.

Thank you all. God bless.



Michelle Obama's speech to the Democratic convention

How Black women cleared a path for Harris to be the VP pick

By KAT STAFFORD



(AP/Photo)

DETROIT (AP) — When Hazel Dukes stepped onto the Democratic National Convention stage in 1972 to second Shirley Chisholm's presidential nomination, it amounted to more than history.

It was a moment of hope. The legacy of Chisholm, who famously said she was "unbossed and unbothered," was cemented that day as the first Black woman to run for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination. Dukes said Chisholm and others hoped her historic run would lay the foundation for future generations of Black women to ascend into powerful political roles to usher in systemic change within their communities.

And 48 years later, that hope is being realized as Party's vice presidential nomination on Wednesday.

She will be the first Black woman and first Asian American woman named to a major party presidential ticket.

"Shirley exhibited the strength of Ida B. Wells, Mary McLeod Bethune and Fannie Lou Hamer and she was a powerhouse," said Dukes, 88, a lifelong activist and current president of the NAACP New York State Conference. "African American women, we've been in this struggle. And now we are showing our power and our strength. We are saying this is our moment and our space, and we are claiming it."

That energy could decide whether Harris and Joe Biden win in November. Black voters, especially women, are a critical part of the Democratic coalition and could sway the results in critical states. But historical-

ly, Black women have fought the racism and sexism that prevented them from having prominent roles within the movements for women's suffrage and civil rights. While their organizing and political contributions had measurable impact, experts say, they were largely relegated to the sidelines, or in some cases, seemingly wiped from the historical record.

Mrs. Obama hinted at the legacy of Black women in politics and how, even in 2020, a Black woman speaking with conviction at the convention might not be met with open arms by some, a stark reminder that the road to prominence within politics and the Democratic Party has not been easy for women of color, especially Black women.

"Now, I understand that

my message won't be heard by some people," Mrs. Obama said. "We live in a nation that is deeply divided, and I am a Black woman speaking at the Democratic convention."

The first Black woman to run technically for vice president was Charlotta Bass in 1952. Bass, who was a newspaper publisher, ran through the Progressive Party, according to author and Johns Hopkins University history professor Martha Jones.

Bass receives little attention, Jones said, because her radical ideas at the time were met with great resistance.

"I think there's a temptation to kind of sanitize Black women's political history, and I think part of the reason we don't remember Bass is because she doesn't fit a shiny, polished mold of respectable Black women," said Jones, whose forthcoming book is "Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All."

"Black women have always been ambitious and nimble and willing to engage in a broad range of political in order to figure out the problem of an American democracy that for so long disappoints Black views Americans," she said.

But the legacy of Black

women extends beyond politics, according to Johnnetta Cole, who became the first African American female president of historically Black Spelman College and national chair of the National Council of Negro Women.

"I have had this extraordinary honor of seeing strong Black women leaders, and there's an expression of, 'If you see one, you can be one,'" said Cole, who was mentored by civil rights legends Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy Height. There's no question that our foremothers paved the way. But while we can talk in a moment about the extraordinary, exquisite selection of Sen. Kamala Harris, let's not declare that it's all victory."

And younger grassroots organizers are balancing the historic nature of Harris' selection with her record as California attorney general and district attorney in San Francisco, which some believe could make it difficult for her and Biden to galvanize support among younger Black and Latino voters.

Some of Harris' critics say she focused on issues that punished poor and minority families. Among them, she took on truancy and supported a statewide law modeled on her city initiative that threatened parents with jail time, fines and

lost public benefits if they failed to send their children to school. But in recent years, Harris has supported more progressive criminal justice reform measures.

Karissa Lewis, the Movement for Black Lives' national field director, said she knows many activists who are inspired by Harris and others who have been "deeply and negatively impacted by some of the historical legacy of Harris."

But Lewis said it's too soon to yet know whether Harris will truly follow in the steps of women who came before her like Fannie Lou Hamer, a beloved civil rights activist.

"It is clear to us at M4BL that no matter who occupies the White House in January, it will require sustained struggle in building our political power to be able to shape a true Black national agenda," Lewis said.

"Fannie Lou Hamer is the model and someone that a lot of folks in modern-day movements look to," she said. "So thinking back to some of Fannie's powerful speeches, it was clear that she was speaking for the people and felt accountable to the people. I think time will tell if Harris sees herself aligned with movement and brings movement along with her."