

**NAACP**  
DALLAS

**JUANITA CRAFT  
FREEDOM FUND**

*Scholarship &  
Awards Luncheon*

**The Urgency of Now:  
*Is My Labor in Vain?***

*Juanita Craft*

**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 21, 2026**  
**@ 11 AM**

**HILTON GARDEN INN**  
800 N. MAIN STREET,  
DUNCANVILLE, TX

*John Lewis*



# Get In Good Trouble, Necessary Trouble



**EARLY VOTE**

**FEBRUARY 17 - 27TH**

**ELECTION MARCH 3, 2026**

“The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool have a democracy”

- Congressman John Lewis



NAACP  
DALLAS

ON BEHALF OF THE DALLAS NAACP BRANCH, WE TAKE IMMENSE PRIDE AND EXPRESS HEARTFELT GRATITUDE AS WE WELCOME YOU TO THIS EXTRAORDINARY CELEBRATION. TODAY, AS WE COME TOGETHER TO HONOR OUR EXCEPTIONAL JUANITA CRAFT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, WE ARE REMINDED THAT THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE BY YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND STEADFAST BELIEF IN OUR MISSION.

YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP HAVE FORTIFIED OUR FOUNDATION, BROADENED OUR REACH, AND EMPOWERED US TO INVEST IN THE FUTURE LEADERS OF TOMORROW. THANKS TO YOU, DESERVING STUDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHASE THEIR EDUCATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND CREATE BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR THEMSELVES, THEIR FAMILIES, AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

THIS EVENT HOLDS EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE AS WE ALSO RECOGNIZE TEN REMARKABLE INDIVIDUALS WITH THE JOHN R. LEWIS LABORER AWARD. INSPIRED BY THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN R. LEWIS (WHO BIRTHDAY HAPPENS TO BE TODAY, FEBRUARY 21). THIS AWARD HONORS THOSE WHO EXEMPLIFY COURAGE, SERVICE, INTEGRITY, AND A STEADFAST COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE AND EQUITY. RELENTLESS

OUR HONOREES EMBODY THESE VALUES THROUGH THEIR DEDICATION AND TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT.

TO YOU OUR ESTEEMED GUESTS, THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AND SHARING IN THE JOY OF THIS REMARKABLE DAY. TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS, WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR TRUST, COLLABORATION, AND ONGOING INVESTMENT IN OUR SHARED VISION. YOUR SUPPORT IS NOT ONLY VALUED—IT IS VITAL.

AS WE CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND HONOR THE EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR LABORER AWARD RECIPIENTS, WE REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVICE, LEADERSHIP, AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL.

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A LEGACY. TOGETHER, WE ARE FOSTERING CHANGE.

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATIONS,

Warm regards

*Sharon Middlebrooks*

DR. SHARON MIDDLEBROOKS, PRESIDENT  
DALLAS NAACP

P O BOX 765307 DALLAS TX 75376 PH. (469)349-9525



***From:***

***Kimberly Bizer Tolbert***

***City Manager***

***February 21, 2026***

***Dear Dallas NAACP Branch, Juanita Craft Freedom Scholarship Fund Scholarship Recipients, and John R. Lewis Laborers Award Honorees,***

On behalf of the City of Dallas, I am honored to extend warm congratulations to this year's Juanita Craft Freedom Fund Scholarship recipients and John Robert Lewis Award honorees. To Madison Carballo, Grace Dodd, L. V. Dyer, and Markeira Terrell — your academic achievement, determination, and commitment to your future represent the very best of our city. This recognition reflects your hard work and perseverance, and it signals the bright paths that lie ahead. Dallas is proud of you and looks forward to the leadership you will bring to our community and beyond.

I also offer sincere congratulations to the recipients of the John Robert Lewis Award: Kenneth Kirk, Lakrecia Moore, Diane Tasian, Audrey Moorehead, Apostle Linda Copling Holliday, Ben Brown, Irish Watson, Sheldon Smith, Stu Becker, and Gary Bledsoe. Each of you exemplifies the courage, integrity, and dedication to justice that defined Congressman John R. Lewis' enduring legacy. Your service and advocacy strengthen our city and inspire continued progress toward equity and opportunity for all.

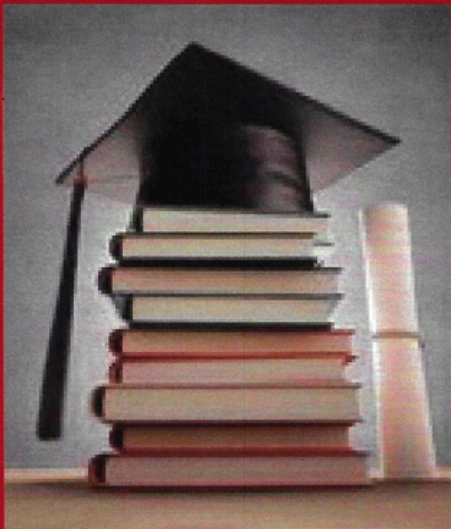
The Dallas NAACP Branch continues to play a vital role in championing education, civic engagement, and community leadership. This celebration is a meaningful reflection of that ongoing work and its lasting impact.

Congratulations again to all of this year's honorees and scholarship recipients. The City of Dallas celebrates your accomplishments and thanks you for the example you set for our community.

With sincere respect and congratulations,

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert

City Manager



## Congratulations to The Dallas Chapter of the NAACP on the Juanita Craft Freedom Fund Scholarships and Awards Luncheon


“...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest,  
whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure,  
whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report;  
if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise,  
think on these things.”  
Philippians 4:8



Dr. Tommy L. Brown,  
First Lady Ruth C. Brown,  
and the  
New Mount Zion  
Baptist Church Family



9550 SHEPHERD RD. DALLAS, TEXAS 75243 (214) 341-6459 NMZB.ORG

Find us on  New Mount Zion BC

# DALLAS NAACP



## JUANITA CRAFT FREEDOM FUND SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS LUNCHEON



**CECIL "SHUCKEY DUCKEY" ARMSTRONG**  
Master of Ceremony



**TAMMY PIERCE**  
Mistress of Ceremony



**MODERATOR**  
MR. CHARLES ONEAL

### THE URGENCY OF NOW: "IS MY LABOR IN VAIN?"



**HON. JESSE  
OLIVER**



**DR. TIFFANY  
CLARK**



**MR. VINCENT  
HALL**



## **Master of Ceremonies**

**CECIL ARMSTRONG**  
**“SHUCKEY DUCKEY”**

Cecil Armstrong, or widely known as Shuckey Duckey, is a native of Dallas, Texas. With over 20 years in the entertainment industry, Shuckey Duckey has become a well-versed seasoned veteran within the industry. He has held the title as a comedian, actor, motivational speaker and host. He has been featured on BET’s Comic View, Def Jam Comedy, The Apollo, and HBO. He brought his many talents to the Universal Soul Circus where he held the title as the Ringmaster. Shuckey Duckey is widely known for coining the catchphrase “Shucky Duckey Quack Quack,” used in many of his comedy acts in return earning a familiar and household name. He describes his catchphrase as a way of expressing disappointment or excitement. Shuckey Duckey is a master of his craft and has been interviewed and praised for his work more times than he can recall. Shuckey Duckey has one goal and that is to live out his life spreading joy by entertaining the masses.



## **Mistress of Ceremonies**

**TAMMY PIERCE**

Tammy Pierce is the CEO/President of United Black Contractors. A native of Dallas, she attended Texas Wesleyan University, where she majored in Political Science with a pre-law emphasis. Tammy Pierce has led and hosted industry and community initiatives centered on economic empowerment, contractor development, and equitable opportunities in construction and business across the DFW metroplex. In 2026, United Black Contractors celebrates its 5-year milestone. Within five years, the organization has lobbied for over \$300 million in contracts and facilitated \$360,000 in small business loans, supporting the growth and sustainability of emerging firms. Prior to entering the construction industry, Tammy Pierce worked in marketing at KKDA Radio, where she developed strategic outreach and branding expertise. She also taught modern dance at local community centers, reflecting her long-standing commitment to creativity and community engagement. Additionally, she worked in telecommunications during her tenure at Exxon Mobil. Tammy Pierce is also the CEO/President of I’Kola Industries, a project management and business development company, and the founder of MaKaZi Inc., a skincare line and business incubator dedicated to supporting Black women entrepreneurs. Above all, she considers her proudest accomplishments to be her two children, whom she loves dearly. Lastly but not least, she is a proud member of the Order of the Eastern Star (OES) Top of Form. Bottom of Form.

STATE OF TEXAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

P.O. BOX 2910  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910  
(512) 463-0598  
FAX: (512) 463-2297



**Yvonne Davis**  
DISTRICT 111

5787 SOUTH HAMPTON RD.  
SUITE 447  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75232  
(214) 941-3895  
FAX: (214) 941-6859

February 11, 2026

Greetings:

It gives me great pleasure to join others in congratulating the NAACP Dallas Branch on your Juanita Craft Freedom Fund Scholarship & Awards Luncheon. As we continue to face the many challenges of today, it is comforting to know that your organization is steadfast in upholding its mission and traditions.

I commend your unwavering dedication to ensuring political, social and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination. This year's theme "The Urgency of Now: Is My Labor in Vain" is most fitting as it exemplifies the vital role the NAACP plays in educating and uplifting our communities. I applaud the NAACP Dallas Branch for providing support, resources and words of encouragement to assist our youth in their academic journey and beyond.

Congratulations to the 2026 honorees for their service to the Dallas community, the state of Texas and across the Nation.

Best wishes for a successful event!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvonne Davis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Yvonne Davis  
State Representative  
District 111



# TONI ROSE

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
DISTRICT 110



February 21, 2026

Dallas NAACP  
P.O. Box 765307  
Dallas, TX 75376

Dear Dr. Middlebrooks, Dallas NAACP Officers and Executive Committee, and Esteemed Guests,

It is a distinct honor to extend my warmest congratulations to the Dallas NAACP on the occasion of the 2026 Juanita Craft Freedom Fund Scholarship and Awards Luncheon. As a Gold Life Member of the NAACP, I'm proud to join you today as we celebrate leadership, service, and the enduring legacy of Juanita Craft, a titan of the civil rights movement.

This year's theme, *"The Urgency of Now: Is my Labor in Vain?"*, invites us to reflect on the meaning of our labor in the ongoing struggle for equity — a question Juanita Craft answered through a lifetime of action. Her tireless advocacy changed the trajectory of civil rights in Dallas and paved the way for many of the freedoms we continue to advance today.

Juanita Craft showed the world that justice demands persistence. The urgency of now calls on us not only to remember her work, but to sustain it. Today, we honor her legacy by investing in the promise of our youth and recognizing those whose steadfast service strengthens our communities.

**To the 2026 Scholarship Recipients:** This achievement is a testament to your potential and leadership, and proof that our labor has purpose. As you embark on your collegiate journeys, carry the spirit of excellence and justice with you. Your success will honor those who came before and inspire those who follow.

**To the John Robert Lewis Laborers Honorees:** Thank you for embodying the spirit of "Good Trouble." You understand that change requires labor, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to community. Your dedicated service is the heartbeat of progress in North Texas.

The Dallas NAACP's commitment to political, educational, social, and economic equality remains as vital today as ever. This is the labor that builds the future where we all thrive. May this afternoon be a time of celebration, reflection, and renewed dedication to justice.

Best wishes,

Toni Rose  
State Representative | District 110

*Congratulations from District 4  
& the City of Dallas*



**MAXIE JOHNSON**



On behalf of District 4 and the residents of the great City of Dallas, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Dallas NAACP, the distinguished Juanita Craft Scholarship Recipients, and the outstanding John R. Lewis Honorees.

The Dallas NAACP continues to stand as a pillar of advocacy, equity, and empowerment in our community. Through unwavering dedication and courageous leadership, you carry forward a legacy that has shaped our city and strengthened our democracy.

To the Juanita Craft Scholarship Recipients: You represent excellence, resilience, and the promise of tomorrow. Your commitment to education and achievement reflects the very spirit of Ms. Craft's enduring work in civil rights and voter empowerment. Continue striving, leading, and making your mark on the world.

To the John R. Lewis Honorees: Thank you for embodying the principles of justice, service, and "Good Trouble." Your leadership inspires us all to remain steadfast in the pursuit of equality and opportunity for every resident.

May this celebration serve as a reminder that progress is possible when courage meets commitment. Dallas is stronger because of your leadership and dedication.

With great pride and admiration,

*Councilman Maxie Johnson*  
Dallas City Council | District 4

Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won

Stony the road we trod  
Bitter the chastening rod  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died  
Yet with a steady beat  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered  
Out from the gloomy past  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast

God of our weary years  
God of our silent tears  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way  
Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand  
May we forever stand  
True to our God  
True to our native land  
Our native land



# Juanita Craft

## AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE AND POLITICIAN

Craft was born Juanita Jewel Shanks in Round Rock, Texas on February 9, 1902. She was the granddaughter of former slaves, and the only child of school teachers, David Slyvestus and Eliza Balfour Shanks. Eliza Shanks raised Juanita alone until she died in 1918. Following her mother's death, Craft moved to Columbus, Texas to be with her father. The following year, she graduated high school and attended Prairie View A&M University, an HBCU. There Craft studied sewing and millinery. After two years, she left and moved back to Austin, Texas. She received her teaching certificate from Samuel Houston College. By 1925, Craft had gotten a job as a maid at the Adolphus Hotel, and later as a seamstress.

In 1935, Craft joined the NAACP, before becoming the Dallas membership chairman in 1942 and the Texas field organizer in 1946. Over 11 years, Craft organized 182 branches of the NAACP. She became the first African American woman to vote in Dallas County in a public election. Between 1975 and 1979, she served on the Dallas City Council for two terms.

In 1954, Craft began assisting in the organization of protests and pickets over segregation. In 1955, she organized a protest of the State Fair of Texas against its policy of admitting blacks only on "Negro Achievement Day." Following the Brown v. Board decision, Craft worked to integrate the University of Texas Law School and the Dallas Independent School District. She later fought and won to help enroll the first black student at North Texas State College (now the University of North Texas).

Craft leaves behind an amazing legacy of public service. Because of her lifelong efforts, she received the NAACP Golden Heritage Life Membership Award in 1978 and the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award in 1984. Her legacy to the city of Dallas was commemorated with the Juanita Jewel Craft Recreation Center and a Dallas city park. Her home, the Juanita Craft Civil Rights House, on Warren St. is open to the public by appointment only. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Wheatley Place Historic District on March 23, 1995.

Annually, the Dallas NAACP gives out the Juanita Craft Awards to individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions and achievements in different sectors of the Dallas metropolitan community.

*Congratulations*

TO OUR 2026 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

Since 2018 SSC Services for Education, in partnership with Dallas NAACP, has sponsored (4) four \$2,500 scholarships to top young scholars in the Dallas community. Our 2026 winners have proven themselves to be exceptional academic achievers and we are proud to be a part of furthering their educational career.

Madison Carballo

Grace Dodd

L.V. Dyer

Markeira Terell





# NAACP DALLAS

Dear Ms. Madison Carballo, Ms. Grace Dodd, Ms. L.V. Dyer, and Ms. Markeira Terrell, It is an honor to be able to congratulate each one of you as the deserving recipients of NAACP Juanita Craft Freedom Fund Scholarships for 2026! Each of you has demonstrated significant dedication and diligence in achieving this level of success. We look forward to hearing about your achievements going forward. It is obvious you each have hard working families and others behind you where you have found the strength to set goals and work toward achieving those goals. May you continue to understand the priceless value of the freedoms we enjoy and spread that awareness to the generations that follow you. I have had the honor of being a volunteer in the RootsandGoals.org Pk3-12 Homework Project for many years. I have seen students such as yourselves set ever higher goals and constantly achieve more than students without written goals. In 2023 the RootsandGoals.org Project started at South Oak Cliff High School, a school we lovingly call SOC. The progress was impressive! Students received letters from individual adults in their families about that persons dreams for them. Each letter also had a story from family history included. On this foundation of studying more stories from family history, and writing about their own life goals, achievement soared at SOC! By 2025 SOC scored the highest School Effectiveness Indices (SEI) Score among all 37 high schools in Dallas ISD! Yes! SOC scored higher than any Choice or Magnet high school in Dallas ISD! It is almost certain SOC will beat that record again this year! Please keep your focus on always securing letters or other documentation about your family roots and always write down your own life goals at least once a year. There is never a problem with changing life goals. The disaster is when any student does not have goals! But you are on the right path! May your wonderful success continue in college! Congratulations!

*Bill Betzen*

Bill Betzen, LMSW (Emeritus)

Dallas NAACP Education Chair

**NAACP**

**DALLAS**

**CONGRATULATES**



**JUANITA CRAFT SCHOLARSHIP  
HONOREES**



**MADISON  
CARBALLO**



**GRACE  
DODD**



**L. V.  
DYER**



**MARKEIRA  
TERELL**





## MADISON CARBALLO

**Madison Carballo graduated from Lake Highlands, excelling in rigorous coursework, including multiple Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses. Her participation in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and other academic clubs showcases her dedication to intellectual growth and excellence. In addition to her academics, Madison was a highly engaged leader in various extracurricular activities. Her involvement in the Health Occupations Students of America reflects her passion for the medical field, which is emphasized by her Certification as a Certified Electrocardiogram Technician and CPR/AED. She is now attending the University of Oklahoma.**



## GRACE ALEECE DODD

**Madison Carballo graduated from Lake Highlands excelling in rigorous coursework, including multiple Advanced Placement and Dual Credit Courses. Her participation in Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and other academic clubs showcases her dedication to intellectual growth and excellence. In addition to her academics, Madison was a highly engaged leader in various extracurricular activities. Her involvement in the Health Occupations Students of America reflects her passion for the medical field, which is emphasized by her Certification as a Certified Electrocardiogram Technician and CPR/AED. She is now attending the University of Oklahoma.**



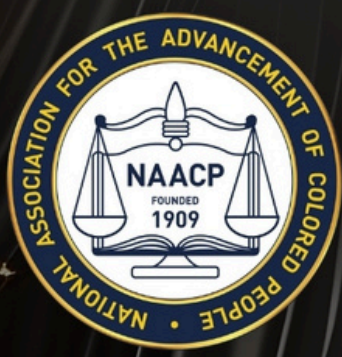
## L.V. DYER

**L. V. DYER, III, graduated from Cedar Hill High School with honors and has received numerous awards for community service and volunteer work. Recognized as a world-renowned Borlaug Scholar for his research on water scarcity in Peru with the Alabama Youth Institute. L. V. is attending Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, majoring in Psychology.**



## MARKEIRA TERRELL

**Markeira Terrell, is a graduate of Desoto High School having received academic honors. Markeira was on the Honor Roll, a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and math club member with perfect attendance. She is attending attending Grambling State University, in Louisiana.**



**NAACP**  
Dallas

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
**JUANITA CRAFT**  
**FREEDOM FUND**  
**SCHOLARSHIP**  
**& AWARDS**  
**LUNCHEON**

**FEBRUARY 21 2026**

**Royce West**  
State Senator  
District 23





**CHARLES O'NEAL**

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The TAAACC Board of Directors has entrusted Charles O'Neal with carrying out the mission of the nation's premier statewide Black chamber of commerce. With experience in business development, strategic communications, and organizational development, O'Neal is charged with moving the concerns of Texas's 400,000-plus Black-owned businesses to the top of private and public sector procurement opportunities, fostering relationships that positively impact local Black chambers, and advocating for legislation that results in improved quality of life for Black Texans.

O'Neal has provided consultative services to a range of companies and organizations on the local, state, and national levels. From framing messages to developing strategies for business growth, O'Neal has earned the trust of his clients and helped lead them to successful, profitable outcomes in the marketplace.

From service as Chair of the Board of the U.S. Black Chambers, Inc., to successfully shepherding the legislative agenda of the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce through the Texas Legislature, service on the Sustainable Energy Advisory Board of Energy Future Holdings, to conducting outreach for municipal bond elections, O'Neal has been entrusted with messages that result in improvements in the lives of Black Americans.

In addition to serving as President of the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce from June 2010 through December 2011, providing exemplary leadership for the nation's oldest and largest African American chamber of commerce, O'Neal also served 14 years as the DBCC Vice President for Business & Economic Development. A nearly 20-year, award-winning career in the newspaper business provides the backdrop for O'Neal's insight into the inner-workings of our city, state, and nation and helps inform credible opinions on the entire spectrum of the African American Experience.

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## **HON. JESSE OLIVER**

Jesse D. Oliver is a distinguished alumnus of Dallas Baptist University and the University of Texas at Arlington. He earned his undergraduate degree from Dallas Baptist University and later pursued his law degree at the University of Texas School of Law.

### **Professional Roles**

Throughout his career, Judge Oliver has served in various capacities, including Texas Legislator, District Court Judge, Deputy Attorney General, and private attorney. His diverse legal and public service background has contributed significantly to improvements in access to healthcare, and the development of public infrastructure.

### **Impact on Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)**

As a legislator, Judge Oliver played a vital role as a co-sponsor of the legislation that authorized the creation of Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART). A decade later, he was appointed by the City of Dallas to serve on the DART Board of Directors, where he dedicated ten years to advancing public transportation.

During his tenure as Board Chair, Judge Oliver led the organization through the successful passage of a three-billion-dollar bond referendum, which accelerated the completion of the DART Light Rail System. This initiative marked the largest public bond referendum in Texas history at the time.

In recognition of his leadership, the American Public Transportation Association honored Judge Oliver as “Transit Board Member of the Year.” Throughout his Board career, DART was a nationally respected, award-winning transit agency.

### **Continued Advocacy and Leadership**

After leaving the DART Board in 2003, Judge Oliver continued to work in the transit industry, and to advocate and speak on transit issues at a national level for nine years. He returned to DART in 2012 as its Deputy Executive Director, serving until his retirement in 2019. He has served on numerous boards and commissions at the local, state and national levels.



## **D R . T I F F A N Y C L A R K**

Dr. Tiffany Clark, a 2007 DeSoto High School alumna. Tiffany has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, she holds a Masters in community & school counseling from University of North Texas, and has a Doctoral degree from Abilene Christian University, where she focused on conflict resolution. Tiffany co-founded Project E.D.G.E (Excelling Dreams and Goals) in 2012 at DeSoto High School, a career services event that connects high school students with successful community leaders in a variety of career fields. The successful program linked over 500 students with opportunities for higher education and success outside the walls of the classroom. Project EDGE was hailed as a model community partnership when DeSoto ISD received the college readiness "GEAR UP!" grant from the Department of Education – resulting in over \$7 million dollars for DeSoto students.

In 2017, Tiffany became the youngest woman ever elected to the DeSoto Independent School District Board of Trustees at the time. As a member of the DeSoto Independent School board, during her 6 years on the board she focused on Academics, Accountability and Achievements for all students in DeSoto ISD to empower her community. She's been an activist, advocate and agent of change through implementing a community service policy and enacting an attendance policy to ensure that we get our fair share from Austin. She's implemented staff mental health days and added African-American and Mexican American studies to our curriculum. Trustee Clark has created policies revamping the student dress code policy. She also developed a reputation as a "thought leader" on School Safety, including a headlining town hall in 2018 with state-Senator Royce West. In 2019, Tiffany was named a Dallas Business Journal '40 under 40' honoree – recognizing her trailblazing leadership potential in Dallas/Fort Worth and beyond. In 2020, Tiffany was selected to participate in the Leadership TASB program which is a yearlong educational leadership journey. In 2021, she was a recipient of the inaugural class of Texas Coalition of Black Democrats 40 under 40 Elected Officials and Community Leaders. In 2022, she received two distinguished awards. The first one was from the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta, as their Community Woman of the Year for 2021. She was also inducted into the DeSoto High School Hall of Honor, 2022. In 2024, Tiffany was elected to serve on the State Board of Education, serving District 13 which encompasses Dallas and Tarrant County. In January of 2025, Tiffany earned the RadioOne (97.9 the Beat) SheIS Community Rising Star Award. In October of 2025, she earned the Juanita Craft Humanitarian Catalyst Award. In December 2025, Tiffany was a top finalist for Best Public Servant presented by Dallas Weekly.

Tiffany also runs a non-profit leadership development program in partnership with Christie Brown entitled Elevating Dreams by H.E.A.R.T.S. (Helping Education Adolescents through Relationship Time and Support). The program mission is to educate teen girls to exhibit self-awareness, to be effective leaders and to display a sense of compassion and empathy to fellow citizens. She also has a children's book titled "Being Different Makes You Unique and workbook to support the book." Tiffany was a school counselor for 10 years serving on both the middle and high school sector. Tiffany, has also been an adjunct professor at University of North Texas at Dallas, where she taught future educators. She is an active member of Friendship West Baptist Church and is "pretty engaged" as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.



**VINCENT HALL  
BOARD CHAIR  
PARKLAND HOSPITAL**

**Vincent Hall** is a member of the Parkland Board of Managers. He was appointed in April 2023 with his term ending in January 2026.

Hall was recently appointed to the DFW International Airport Board by the Dallas City Council. He retired from Southwestern Bell AT&T as a General Manager in the Telecommunications Industry. He was responsible for sales and revenue generation and held a mutually beneficial working partnership with organized labor throughout his career. He is in the 21st year of his second career with Dallas County, serving as a General Manager for the Road and Bridge District Three. In addition, he is a member of the Adjunct Faculty at Dallas College and a licensed real estate agent.

Hall graduated from Ohio University in Athens with a Bachelor of Specialized Studies. Before joining the DFW Airport Board, he gained experience with various boards and fiduciary roles.

Hall's past board and civic affiliations include the Chairman of Dallas Telco Credit Union, The Dallas Weekly, NIA Kids for the Performing Arts – Chairman 2005, United Way Loaned Executive Program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters Metropolitan Dallas, City of Dallas MLK Center Advisory Board, and the Dallas Police Chief's Community Advisory Committee and the Adult Rehab Ministry (ARM).

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# NAACP Dallas Branch

*Best wishes on the Juanita Craft Freedom Fund  
Scholarship and Awards Luncheon. Thank you for continuing to  
empower students & advancing equity in our communities!*

## Toni Rose

**State Representative  
District 110**



**Always here to serve!**

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Pol. Ad Paid by Toni Rose Campaign

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# PROGRAM

## CECIL “SHUCKEY DUCKEY” ARMSTRONG TAMMY PIERCE MASTER/MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

Invocation.....Al Green, Religious Affairs, Chair

Welcome.....Kebran Alexander, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Greetings.....Honorable Casey Thomas  
NAACP Texas State Conference, 1<sup>st</sup> VP

LIFT EVERY VOICE.....Honorable Maxie Johnson  
Dallas City Council, District 4

Occasion..... Germyah Bennett, President  
Dallas Youth NAACP Council

Recognition of Life Members & Membership Appeal.....Lita Lucas  
Membership Chair

Recognition of Elected Officials, Dignitaries, & Candidates..Peggy Stockley  
Assistant Treasurer

*DINNER IS SERVED*

*MUSIC BY DJ "RICO"*

Presentation of Scholarships.....Bill Betzen, Education Chair  
Mr. Kendyll Locke, Deputy COS - House of Representatives District 30



# PROGRAM

**A CONVERSATION: The Urgency of Now: “Is My Labor In Vain?”**

**Introduction of Panelists.....Charles O’Neal, President  
TAAACC  
Honorable Jesse Oliver, Dr. Tiffany Clark, Vincent Hall**

## **VIDEO**

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### **THE JOHN R. LEWIS LABORER AWARDS**

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**President Dr. Middlebrooks, Kendyll Locke**

***MR. KENNETH KIRK -AMALGMATED TRANSIT UNION***

**International Secretary-Treasurer**

***MRS. LAKRECIA MOORE, PRESIDENT***

**Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc - Xi Phi Chapter**

***MRS. DIANE H. TASIAN - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS***

**Director of Volunteers**

***HONORABLE AUDREY MOOREHEAD***

***APOSTLE DR. LINDA COPLING HOLLIDAY***

**Co-Chair, National Alliance of God’s Women (N.A.O.G.W)**

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**National Black Police Association**

***STU BECKER, STEWARD***

**American Federation of Teachers**

***HONORABLE GARY BLEDSOE, ESQUIRE***

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**President, NAACP Texas State Conference**

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**Recognition of Sponsors.....Katrinka Pouncy & Johnette Williams**

**Remarks .....Dr. Sharon Middlebrooks, President**

# HON. JOHN R. LEWIS CONGRESSMAN, GA



JOHN ROBERT LEWIS (FEBRUARY 21, 1940 – JULY 17, 2020) WAS AN AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND STATESMAN WHO SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR GEORGIA'S 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT FROM 1987 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 2020. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE 1960 NASHVILLE SIT-INS AND THE FREEDOM RIDES, WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE STUDENT NONVIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE (SNCC) FROM 1963 TO 1966, AND WAS ONE OF THE "BIG SIX" LEADERS OF GROUPS WHO ORGANIZED THE 1963 MARCH ON WASHINGTON. FULFILLING MANY KEY ROLES IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND ITS ACTIONS TO END LEGALIZED RACIAL SEGREGATION IN THE UNITED STATES, IN 1965 LEWIS LED THE FIRST OF THREE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCHES ACROSS THE EDMUND PETTUS BRIDGE WHERE, IN AN INCIDENT THAT BECAME KNOWN AS BLOODY SUNDAY, STATE TROOPERS AND POLICE ATTACKED LEWIS AND THE OTHER MARCHERS.

A MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, LEWIS WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1986 AND SERVED 17 TERMS. THE DISTRICT HE REPRESENTED INCLUDED MOST OF ATLANTA. DUE TO HIS LENGTH OF SERVICE, HE BECAME THE DEAN OF THE GEORGIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. HE WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN THE HOUSE, SERVING FROM 1991 AS A CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP AND FROM 2003 AS A SENIOR CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP. HE RECEIVED MANY HONORARY DEGREES AND AWARDS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM IN 2011.

TODAY, THE DALLAS NAACP HONOR AND PAY TRIBUTE TO 10 LABORERS IN REMEMBRANCE OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN R. LEWIS. MAY YOU CONTINUE TO DO THE GOOD WORK IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEGIN IN THE NAME OF “GOOD TROUBLE.”

WE WISH EACH OF YOU THE BEST IN ALL OF LIFE’S ENDEAVORS AND MAY THE WIND ALWAYS BE AT YOUR BACK.

THE DALLAS NAACP OFFICERS & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
DR. SHARON MIDDLEBROOKS, PRESIDENT



## **KENNETH “KEN” KIRK**

Kenneth Kirk serves as International Secretary-Treasurer of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), having been re-elected at the Union’s 61st International Convention in New York, NY, on August 21, 2025. He was first elected to the position at the ATU’s 60th Convention in Las Vegas, NV, after being appointed by International President John Costa—with approval from the ATU General Executive Board—on December 13, 2019, to complete the term of the late International Secretary-Treasurer Oscar Owens.

Kirk’s career in public transit began in 1985, when he took a job with the Dallas Transit System to support himself through college while attending East Texas State University. Shortly after joining Local 1338-Dallas, TX, he experienced an unjust disciplinary action that underscored the need for strong union representation. Determined to ensure no member faced similar treatment, he became active in his Local.

In 1990, Kirk was appointed Shop Steward at Local 1338. He was elected Vice President the following year and became President/Business Agent in 1994. Under his leadership, Local 1338 grew from 368 members to 1,500 by the time he was appointed an International Representative in 2004.

During his tenure as Local President/Business Agent, Kirk also played a significant role in the broader labor movement in Dallas, serving as both Vice President and President of the Dallas AFL-CIO. He additionally served as Vice President and President of the ATU Texas Legislative Conference Board.

In April 2004, then-International President Warren George appointed Kirk as an International Representative. Just months later, in July 2004, George appointed him as an International Vice President to complete the term of retiring IVP Charles Pettus. Kirk was elected International Vice President at the ATU’s 54th International Convention in Las Vegas, NV, in 2004 and has been re-elected to the position at every Convention since.

Kirk is a proud forty-year member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and he further strengthened his leadership and labor expertise by completing the Harvard Trade Union Program in 2014.

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**

THE AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION  
IS PROUD TO SUPPORT



**NAACP**  
**DALLAS**

and congratulates our ATU International Secretary-Treasurer  
Kenneth R. Kirk on being selected as the recipient of the

2026 John G. Lewis Laborer Award



A M A L G A M A T E D T R A N S I T U N I O N



**John A. Costa**  
International  
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Vice President

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International  
Secretary-Treasurer



## **LAKRECIA MOORE**

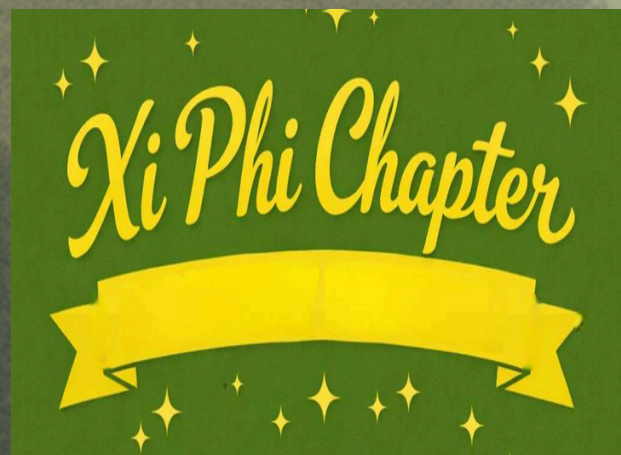
### **CHI ETA PHI SORORITY**

LaKrecia Moore, BSN, RN is an accomplished pediatric and neonatal research nurse whose professional career is marked by clinical excellence, scholarly contribution, and dedicated service. She is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University School of Nursing, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in May 2010. Mrs. Moore began her nursing career at Children's Health Dallas, serving from September 2010 to November 2016 as a Clinical Registered Nurse in Renal and General Pediatrics. In November 2016, she joined The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, where she currently serves as a Senior Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Research Nurse Coordinator within Pediatrics. In this role, her work has contributed to nationally recognized research, including data published through the Vermont Oxford Network. She also provided essential data to the University of Florida National Registry for Surveillance and Epidemiology of Perinatal COVID-19 Infection, supporting evidence-based neonatal and perinatal care during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to her hospital-based roles, Mrs. Moore has served as a Lead Biometric and Wellness Screener and Flu Nurse for numerous organizations, further extending her impact on population health and preventive care. Her commitment to pediatric advocacy also includes serving as Lead Camp Nurse for children diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, NVLD, ADD/ADHD, and other neurodivergent profiles. Mrs. Moore demonstrates a strong commitment to professional leadership and community service. She is a devoted member of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Incorporated, having served in multiple leadership roles including President, Vice President, and Undergraduate Nursing Student Sponsor. Her service has been recognized with several honors, including Soror of the Year, leadership appreciation awards, and regional conference recognition. She is also a member of Sigma Alpha Iota International Music Fraternity for Women. Within her faith community, Mrs. Moore serves as Vice President of the Nurses Health Guild at Eastgate Missionary Baptist Church and actively participates in multiple ministries, including the Nurses Guild, Mass Choir, Young Adult Ministry, Pastor Supplemental Board, Culinary Board, and Marriage Ministry. Mrs. Moore has been married for five years and enjoys traveling, cruising, shopping, and spending quality time with her family. She is also a devoted dog owner to Princess and King.

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**



On behalf of the Executive Board and the members of Xi Phi Graduate Chapter and Xi Phi Beta Undergraduate Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. in Dallas, TX, we extend our sincere gratitude for your unwavering commitment and impactful contributions to the community. Your dedication to service and positive change is truly appreciated.





## **DIANE TASIAN LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**Diane Tasian currently serves on the Board of the League of Women Voters of Dallas as the Director of Volunteers and on the Property Committee of Our Friends Place. She is married to her college sweetheart; the mother of two young women; mother-in-law to their husbands; and grandmother of four young women.**

**She has volunteered with Our Friends Place, a transitional living program for young women since 1991. She served on their Board twice and has been on the Property Committee continuously. She joined the League of Women Voters of Dallas in 2004 but didn't become active until 2015, first by helping deliver Voters Guides, and then by serving on the Fair Park study group. In 2017 she joined the Board and has served as VP of Program (2017-2019), and President (2019-2023). She is also a certified Volunteer Deputy Registrar with Dallas County Elections Department.**

**Professionally she is a retired healthcare architect. Diane earned a BFA degree from the University of Houston and a Master of Architecture degree from UT Arlington. She was a licensed architect in Texas specializing in healthcare and was credentialed by USGBC as a LEED AP BD+C when she retired in 2010.**

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**





## **HONORABLE AUDREY MOOREHEAD**

The Honorable Audrey F. Moorehead made history as the first woman elected to serve as Judge of Dallas County Criminal Court No. 3. Her court has been named Best County Criminal Misdemeanor Court four years in a row. Judge Moorehead also volunteers her time as the judicial officer for a statutory specialty court dedicated to helping high-risk, justice-involved individuals rebuild their lives. Licensed for nearly two decades, she built a distinguished law practice focused on criminal defense, domestic relations, child welfare, and probate before taking the bench. She began her career as a Licensed Social Worker working in nonprofit management for the Visiting Nurse Association of Texas with responsibilities including Meals on Wheels. Her leadership extends well beyond the courtroom. Judge Moorehead has served as President of the Texas County Court at Law Judges Association and is the 2025–2026 Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the State Bar of Texas. She is the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Texas Center for Legal Ethics, where she continues as faculty. She holds numerous roles within the American Bar Association, including presidential appointments to the ABA Standing Committee on Ethics, Professionalism, and Standing Committee on Continuing Legal Education. Moorehead is the Co-Chair of the Judicial Function Committee of the ABA Criminal Justice Section. She is Chair of the ABA Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division’s Estate and Financial Planning Committee, Vice Chair of both the Ethics and Professional Responsibility Committee. Judge Moorehead’s service to the profession includes the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Educational Institute, the Dallas Bar Foundation, Dallas Association of Young Lawyers Foundation, the Texas Bar Foundation and American Bar Foundation and she is a Life Fellow in each organization. Current board service includes Legal Hospice of Texas, CASA Children’s Council, and the Advisory Board of Unlocking Doors, a pioneering prison reentry initiative. She is the organizing founder of the North Texas State Criminal Law American Inn of Court. She has been a member of the Dallas Bar Association Bar None cast for over 15 years and raised over 2 million dollars for minority law students. Her community service and philanthropy reach far beyond the legal profession. Judge Moorehead is a Trustee of the Rotary Club of Dallas Foundation, one of the oldest Rotary foundations in Texas, and a board member of Lions Club International – Founder’s Club. Lions Club is largest and oldest service organization in the world. She is also active in organizations devoted to leadership, mentorship, and community service, including Leadership Women Texas, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Top Ladies of Distinction, Incorporated, and the National Association of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs. She is a proud life member of each of these service organizations. A respected jurist, mentor, and community advocate, Judge Moorehead has been recognized with numerous honors, including the 2025 Dallas Bar Association Al Ellis Community Service Award, DWLA Outstanding Jurist Award, the J.L. Turner Legal Association Outstanding Mentor Award, and the Texas Women Lawyers Pathfinder Award, the organization’s highest distinction. She also serves as President of the Texas A&M School of Law Alumni Board of Directors. She is the NAACP-Dallas Chapter 2025 recipient of the John R. Lewis Award.

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**



## **APOSTLE DR. LINDA COPLING HOLLIDAY**

Pastor Holliday is now a modern, end-time messenger of God's Holy Word sent to Leaders. She has traverse the United States, Africa, South Korea, many parts of Europe, Switzerland, Canada, and the West Indies. One of her most rewarding travels was across the continental divide to Asia. In Beijing, China she was used of God to bring forth His power of love to the Chinese and Russian youth at a Cultural Exchange Conference. She defied that country's rule and in the city's square laid hands on a young child and his father who needed a healing touch from God, right there, on the streets of Beijing, China. Her international travels brought her to the Yucatan Province of Mexico. She Served as Chaplain on the Carnival Cruise Ship and has started a new church and ministry, "The Church At Sea" and has appointed and ordained Amanda Magadia of Thailand as overseer. Dr. Holliday brought forth God's ministry to the descendants of the Aborigines of Australia, the Māori people of New Zealand, the Samoans, the Moors' from a small island in the Indian ocean, and many more islanders while on a mission trip in Brisbane and Sydney Australia. ANOINTED & FULL OF POWER The anointed power of the Holy Ghost flows through her with a prophetic word, the gift of knowledge, and discernment, that brings healing and deliverance to all that will receive her. There are no boundaries. She crosses every walk of life, culture, and religions. God has set her with Presidents, Kings and Prime Ministers of foreign Countries, and the United States of America. She goes behind prison walls, to the homeless on the streets, children's homes, schools, communities and to churches of all congregational sizes. Apostle Holliday gives Spiritual Direction and guidance, Private, and personal to celebrities all through her pastoral counseling. Her ministry to women ("God's Millennium Women") has been profoundly life changing. Many have been ordained and have come to the revelation of the call of ministry on their lives. Dr. Linda Holliday has attained many accomplishments. She was ordained in Dallas, Texas and is under charter granted from the state of Texas 1953 AD, licensed through Victory New Testament Fellowship International, and a Lifetime License through Apostle Prezell Lane of "Move of God Bible Way Deliverance Tabernacle Church". She holds a Doctor of Divinity degree in the field of Evangelism from Rialto Community Bible College in Rialto, California. She has degreed education in Business and in the field of Broadcasting, with a career as a Broadcast Engineer and General Sales Manager of a Christian radio station prior to her entering into full time ministry. She is Co-Chair of N. A. O. G. W. – National Alliance of God's Women, in Columbus, Ohio, a member of the American Clergy Leadership Conference of Washington, D.C. Dr. Holliday is the District7 Director of the state of Texas Worldwide Soul-Winning, Inc. in Partnership with the late Bishop Dr. G. E. Brewton of Chicago, Illinois. She is an Executive Board member of Pre-Destine Life Ministries in Arlington Texas and a Board member of NTouch Counseling Holdings LLC. Frisco, Texas. She is a C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for the children and more

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**

# Apostle Dr. Linda Holliday

## *Congratulations!*

She Captured my  
attention with an  
oversized bouquet  
of roses and  
married me  
on a mountain  
in  
ZIMBABWE!!!  
MY WIFE...

**ALWAYS SPECIAL!!!**

**CONGRATULATION MY LOVE!!!**

On this most honorable award  
"The John R. Lewis Laborer Award"

**YOUR HUSBAND...**

**KENE**



You are being Honored With  
The NAACP John R. Lewis Laborers Award

*Congratulations!*  
*Apostle Dr. Linda C. Holliday*

Your wisdom, mentoring and teachings over the many  
years has been impactful and life changing to all.

You are an Inspiration to me!  
This honor is well deserved.  
Congratulation on your continued success.

Prophetess Punkin Threat  
Ashlyn, California



**Aunt Linda**, you have been a constant beacon of **GOD's** light and love in our lives.  
You are the ear we can bend and the shoulder we can cry on. We thank you for being a  
trailblazer and making room in your heart and home for all those who need you.  
To **GOD** Be the Glory for the ministry **He** has given you.

Enid & Dexter Howard  
Houston, Texas

*Congratulation!*

*On the NAACP*

*John R. Lewis Laborers Award*



Congratulations, Dr. Linda Holliday you are truly an Angel sent By God; Her hands are always full of love, bringing divine intervention Wherever God sends her with technologies, words of wisdom , and words of life. She will not stop giving until the sun comes Out in the lives of those she touches. She has many extraordinary accomplishments and The *John R. Lewis Laborers Award* is truly a worthy honor.

*Pastor Beverly J. Blackwell, Mesa, Arizona*

**NAACP**

**DALLAS BRANCH**

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# BEN BROWN

## ## Educational Background

- Graduate of Ennis High School
- Navarro Junior College, Corsicana, TX – Associate Degree, graduated in 1977
  - Elected to Who's Who Among American Colleges in 1977
- Texas State University, San Marcos, TX – Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.) with a concentration in Marketing, graduated in 1979
- Licensed Real Estate Salesperson in 1989
- Licensed Real Estate Broker in 1995

## ## Professional Experience

- 28 years at AT&T as an Advertising Copy Processor
- Lifetime Member of the Communications Workers of America (CWA) Union since 1980
- 20 years in residential real estate sales with Century 21 Galloway-Herron
- 4 years in residential real estate sales with Century 21 Alicia Trevino Realtors
- 14 years as Owner and Operator of B-21 Realty Company in Dallas, TX

## ## Community Involvement

- Graduate of the 2019 Dallas County Sheriff's Citizen Academy
- 10-year member of the Dallas NAACP Executive Committee
- Member of the Ennis Black Chamber of Commerce since 2014
- Member of The Texas African American Association of Chambers of Commerce since 2014
- Member of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers (NAREB) since 1992
  - Served as Chairman of the Board, President, and Secretary of the local chapter of NAREB
  - Served as Board Member and Secretary of the State chapter of NAREB
- Deacon at St. James & Saintsville COGIC for 46 years
- Chaplain for the Crisis Response Ministry for 3 years

## ## Personal Life

Married for 38 years to Dorothy Brown

- Board Member of the City of Dallas Housing and Finance Corporation (2011-2014)
- Board Member of the Ellis County African-American Museum and Library (2020-2024)

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**



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## **IRISH WATSON**

**Ms. Irish Watson of Dallas, TX., has been volunteering in the southern Dallas community for many years. One of her most proud accomplishments was serving as a voluntary contributor at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, consistently for over 20 yrs. Serving in a number of roles, Ms. Watson has made contributions to City Men Cook and a multitude of events hosted by the African American Museum, in the past, served as stage Mgr and planner for the MLK Annual Harambee Festival, the Juneteenth Festival and a major contributor offering her time and talent to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Banquet. In addition, she supported the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. march/parade and silent auction. It is a widely shared sentiment that Ms. Watson is invaluable in her commitment to the community. Irish Watson's volunteer experience expands past the MLK Center or the African American Museum into surrounding communities throughout the DFW metroplex. She also assisted in organizing the entertainment segment for the City of Grand Prairie Annual Juneteenth Festival. She is currently still involved with the African American Museum, Chairing the Texas Black Invitational Rodeo, and assisting with other events held at the museum. In March 2015, Irish Watson was a recipient of The Texas Legislative Black Caucus Outstanding Texan Award hosted in Austin Tx., Nominated by Representative Toni Rose Dist 110. In February 2016, Ms. Watson received the MOCCA Cosmetics Community Award. In 2017, she received the A. Maceo Smith Community Service Award (Business) presided by the African American Museum of Dallas. Irish Watson has received so many business and community awards that she can't keep count. In addition to her volunteerism, Ms. Watson has been a business Owner/Operator overseeing WOW! " IF LOOKS COULD KILL" HAIR STUDIO in Downtown Dallas 17 yrs., but has been in business for 25 yrs. She sees her business as another part of her servant ministry. Ms. Watson views herself as a community servant and has dedicated her life to improving her community and the larger Dallas area, along with keeping the community informed, involved, and encouraging them to exercise their voting rights.**

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARDS**

# RE-ELECT JOHN CREUZOT

DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



WHEN YOU VOTE EARLY, YOU VOTE EARLY

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**DEMOCRATIC  
PRIMARY**

**VOTE EARLY: February 17 to February 27  
PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, March 3**



## **SHELDON “SMITTY” SMITH**

**Sheldon Howard Smith was born in Frankfort, Germany and raised in Austin, Texas. A proud graduate of Austin, Lyndon Baines Johnson High School who started his college at Howard Payne University playing football. Transferring to North Texas State University and was a Fall 1982 initiate of the Zeta Upsilon Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity where he attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Emergency Management. In addition, he is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington Army Reserve Officer Training Program and received an early commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Reserve attaining while rising to the rank of Captain Airborne Infantry. I currently serve in the following positions. Grand Chapter Public Safety Committee Southwestern Province Public Safety Committee Texas-New Mexico Kappa Caucus Secretary Treasurer University of North Texas Chapter Advisor Denton-Lewisville (TX) Alumni Chapter Immediate Past Polemarch(3X) Denton-Lewisville (TX) Alumni Chapter Board of Directors (2X) My Commitments Kappa Alpha Psi Life Member Southwestern Province Kappa Alpha Psi Life Member Sergeant Sheldon H. Smith is a thirty-two-year active veteran of the Dallas Police Department and currently assigned to the United States Marshal Service Violent Criminal Task Force. He is the founder of the current Dallas Police Athletic League which serves thousands of youth across the city. While working with Project Unity he has taught thousands of students “What to Do, When Stopped by the Police. He continues to serve the community and Police Officers. He is the proud husband of wife Donna and Son Melvin and Preston. He lives by the motto, “Excellence in All that We Do” Every day he seeks to serve others and that includes you!**

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**

# The National Black Police Association Congratulates

Sheldon "Smitty" Smith  
President



**DALLAS NAACP**  
**"JOHN ROBERT LEWIS AWARD"**





## **STU BECKER**

**Stu Becker is a high school social studies teacher and a labor and civil rights activist. He is a member and steward of his union, the American Federation of Teachers. He is the state Chair of the Texas Young Active Labor Leaders (YALL) which is a constituency group of the Texas AFL-CIO of labor activists who are 40 years old and under. He served as the co-chair of the DFW chapter of the Young Active Labor Leaders. He is a delegate for his union at the North Texas Area Labor Federation. He organizes the multiracial working class for political power. He fights for workers rights, against systemic white supremacy/racism, and for a better, more just world. He has also organized tenants for tenant rights, protests against police brutality, and much more. He is fighting for a society that puts the people and planet before profits.**

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**



## **HON. GARY BLEDSOE, ESQUIRE PRESIDENT, NAACP TEXAS STATE CONFERENCE**

Gary Bledsoe is President of the Texas NAACP and has held that position since being elected in 1991. He is an Austin lawyer who specializes in employment, civil rights, and public interest law. Bledsoe served as Austin Branch President of the NAACP from 1987 to 1991 and has served on the National Board of Directors since 2003. He is currently the Chair of the National NAACP Legal and Housing Committees, Vice-Chair of the Environmental and Climate Justice Committee, and a member of the Criminal Justice and Executive Committees. Bledsoe's ties with the NAACP enabled him to help make substantial civil rights changes through handling racial discrimination complaints against the Texas DPS that led to the 1st Black and Female Texas Rangers, the creation of a Police Monitor's Office for the Austin Police Department, the creation of a Civil Rights Division at the Texas Department of Highways, the creation of the 9th Congressional District in Houston and the preservation of the 30th Congressional District in Dallas (both currently being challenged after the most recent racial gerrymandering effort by the Texas Legislature), the creation of Constable and Justice of the Peace Districts in Galveston County, Texas, the invalidation of SB14, a racially discriminatory voter suppression bill adopted by the Legislature in 2011, through working with Senator Royce West and Lieutenant Governor Bill Ratliff the removal of plaques from the walls of the Texas Supreme Court that dedicated that building to the daughters of the Confederacy, and the passage of many pieces of important legislation over the years and other activities. Bledsoe joined with the National NAACP to file a historic predatory lending lawsuit against 4 of the big 5 Banks in America, which were ultimately resolved. Future predatory lending principles were part of a lawsuit against 4 of the big 5 Banks in America, which were ultimately resolved. Future predatory lending principles were part of this effort, and he is the principal author of these principles. Bledsoe's legal acumen has earned him lawyer of the year awards from the Travis County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division and the Attorney General's Office, awards from the Austin Urban League, the Austin and National NAACPs, inclusion in the 100 Best Black Lawyers in America, and a lifetime achievement award from the National Bar Association. Bledsoe received the Virgil Lott Medal from the University of Texas School of Law as an outstanding alum. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Bar Association in 2021 and the Johnnie Cochran Jr. Soaring Eagle Award from the Civil Rights Section of the American Association of Justice. He is also the recipient of the Frances Farenthold Award from the Texas Democratic Lawyers' Association. Bledsoe served on the Board of Regents for Texas Southern University from 2007 to 2017. Bledsoe was the Acting Dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University from November 2017 to July 2019, when he became the 1st Dean to receive the Administrator of the Year Award from the Student Bar Association. He is currently with the Bledsoe Law Firm PLLC and is married to Alberta Phillips, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist who is currently the editor of the Austin Free Press and Board Chair

**JOHN R. LEWIS LABORERS AWARD**

# RE-ELECT

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**2026**  
ELECTION

MARCH  
03

JUDGE  
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EARLY VOTE FEBRUARY 17 - 27TH



ELECT

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**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY**

**EARLY VOTE: FEB 17 - FEB 27**

**ELECTION DAY: MARCH 3, 2026**

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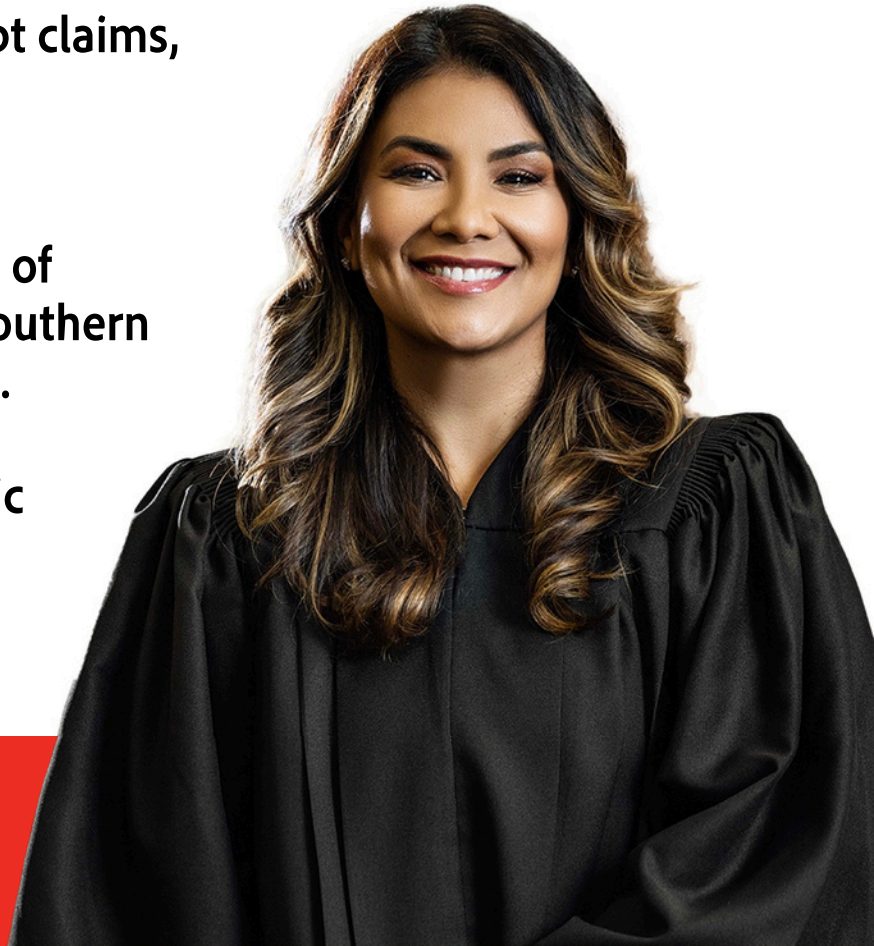
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**DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY  
EARLY VOTE: FEB 17 - FEB 27  
ELECTION DAY: MARCH 3, 2026**

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FOR JUDGE 282nd



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Awards Luncheon

*- From*

Honorable Marilyn Mayse

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EARLY VOTING  
2/17/26 - 2/27/26

ELECTION DAY  
MARCH 3 2026



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DALLAS COUNTY CRIMINAL COURT 1



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Awards Luncheon



**ELECT**

**CHERYL**  
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MARCH 3, 2026**

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from **ALYSSA J.**   
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**PRIMARY ELECTION: MARCH 3, 2026 EARLY VOTING: FEB. 17-27**

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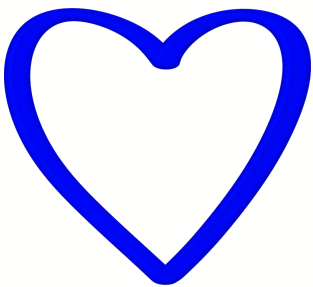
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## NAACP

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***From:***

***Kimberly Bizer Tolbert***

***City Manager***

***February 21, 2026***

***Dear Dallas NAACP Branch, Juanita Craft Freedom Scholarship Fund Scholarship Recipients, and John R. Lewis Laborers Award Honorees,***

On behalf of the City of Dallas, I am honored to extend warm congratulations to this year's Juanita Craft Freedom Fund Scholarship recipients and John Robert Lewis Award honorees. To Madison Carballo, Grace Dodd, L. V. Dyer, and Markeira Terrell — your academic achievement, determination, and commitment to your future represent the very best of our city. This recognition reflects your hard work and perseverance, and it signals the bright paths that lie ahead. Dallas is proud of you and looks forward to the leadership you will bring to our community and beyond.

I also offer sincere congratulations to the recipients of the John Robert Lewis Award: Kenneth Kirk, Lakrecia Moore, Diane Tasian, Audrey Moorehead, Apostle Linda Copling Holliday, Ben Brown, Irish Watson, Sheldon Smith, Stu Becker, and Gary Bledsoe. Each of you exemplifies the courage, integrity, and dedication to justice that defined Congressman John R. Lewis' enduring legacy. Your service and advocacy strengthen our city and inspire continued progress toward equity and opportunity for all.

The Dallas NAACP Branch continues to play a vital role in championing education, civic engagement, and community leadership. This celebration is a meaningful reflection of that ongoing work and its lasting impact.

Congratulations again to all of this year's honorees and scholarship recipients. The City of Dallas celebrates your accomplishments and thanks you for the example you set for our community.

With sincere respect and congratulations,

Kimberly Bizer Tolbert

City Manager