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# THE 'M' VOICE

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S MINORITY VOICE - SINCE 1987

APRIL 9-15, 1994

## Arrington named 1994 Presidential Award Honoree

### Awards to be presented at White House Ceremony

Marvin Arrington has been named one of 21 winners of the President's Volunteer Action Awards. Chosen from more than 5,000 nominations nationwide, Marvin Arrington will be honored by President Clinton at a White House ceremony.

In 1987, Marvin Arrington and his wife, restaurant owners in a low-income neighborhood known for substance abuse, crime and violence, noticed that children often wandered aimlessly after school outside his business without supervision. Out of concern for the children's safety, he began

inviting them into the restaurant for help with homework. In 1986, he established the Little Willie Center, a tutoring and mentoring program which provides an alternative for children to being home or on the streets alone. Approximately 45 children ages 3 to 18 participate daily in this program administered by more than 60 volunteers who serve as tutors and supervise educational and recreational activities.

President Clinton firmly supports volunteer community service as the promise of our Nation and the positive force that binds us together: "Today we are taking a stand in this country for the proposition that if we challenge people to serve and we give them a chance to fulfill their abilities, more and more and more we will all

understand that we must go forward together."

The White House ceremony will take place during National Volunteer Week April 17-23. Since 1974, National Volunteer Week has given nonprofit organizations, corporations and Volunteer Centers across the country the opportunity to thank the 94 million people who volunteer over \$176 billion worth of time every year, addressing serious social problems such as homelessness, hunger, AIDS and child abuse.

The awards program is co-sponsored by The Points of Light Foundation and the Corporation for National Service, which administers the President's national service programs.

The final judges include Robbie Callaway, assistant national di-

rector of Boys and Girls Clubs of America; Lin Dawson, Center for Study of Sport in Society; James Joseph, president of Council of Foundations; Leroy Keith, president of Morehouse College; Zoe Mikva, Advocacy Institute; Frank Pearl, chairman of Rappahannock Investment Company; Lynda Johnson Robb; Beatriz Salazar, director of Be's Kids and 1993 President's Volunteer Action Awards winner; Deborah Szekely; Rolette Thomas, SEA fellow.

The awards are presented in four categories: Human Services; Education; Environment; Public Safety.

Funders for the President's Volunteer Action Awards program include: Ford Motor Company; W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL); Avon Products Inc.; GTE Foundation; Knights of Columbus Supreme Council; Ryder System, Inc.

Founded in 1990, The Points of Light Foundation is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to motivating leaders to mobilize others for community service directed at solving the most serious social problems facing society today.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, established by the National and Com-

munity Service Trust Act of 1993, combines two independent federal agencies, the Commission on national and Community Service and ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency.

In 1987, Marvin Arrington and his wife, restaurant owners in a low-income neighborhood known for substance abuse, crime and violence, noticed that children often wandered aimlessly after school outside the restaurant. Many were unsupervised because their parents had low-paying jobs that did not allow for the expense of child care. Out of concern for their safety, he began inviting them into the restaurant to get help with their homework, play video games and receive personal guidance when needed.

Mr. Arrington formalized his efforts to care for these latch-key children by establishing the Little Willie Center, a tutoring and mentoring program. Located in a building near the restaurant, the Little Willie Center is open Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. eighty percent of the 45 children are from single-parent families; nearly all the families are low-income.

The Center is run by volunteers; parents are asked to volunteer two hours per week in lieu of paying a fee for their child's care. More than 60 volunteers including parents, teachers, local church members and students from East Carolina University, work with the children, who range in age from 3-18.

Each afternoon, groups of three to five students work with tutors on their homework. If the student do not have homework, the tutors make assignments in their areas of academic weakness. The youngsters are also encouraged to read at least 15 minutes each day. After an hour of tutoring, they participate in recreational activities or crafts projects and receive a nutritious meal. The volunteers who serve as mentors, working and playing with the children, are required to adhere to strict rules of conduct. Several of the children have improved their school grades; most are at least maintaining their grade point average.

Mr. Arrington, whom many of the children look to as a father figure, helps with the youngsters basketball team each Monday. Because many of the children have asked to attend the Little Willie Center of the weekends and holidays, he has organized weekend recreational and educational activities.

## The plight of Frazier

The North Carolina State Bar has declared him as perhaps the leading african-american trial lawyer in the state. Ironically, this same man has been targeted for disbarment which led to his financial and professional downfall. His name—Reginald Frazier.

Reginald "Rex" Frazier, who has practiced law for 30 years, is the first african-american to compete and contend for political power in running for Lt. Governor. Frazier also made history as the first african-american to seek to campaign statewide for the North Carolina Supreme Court. However, 3 years ago, Frazier's law career came to a halt.

It began in the mid 1980's, when one of Frazier's clients filed a complaint against him. The client, described as an "elderly black man", claimed that Frazier failed to collect \$750 for a judgment won against a neighbor who cut down the client's collard plants with a lawnmower. The client, who reportedly paid Frazier a \$300 fee to represent him, took the complaint to another lawyer who then took this complaint to the North Carolina State Bar.

Subsequently, the state bar took this complaint as one more mark against Frazier's record. Frazier also added that the bar initiated a complaint against him which charged Frazier with attempting to induce his client to sign a statement that was untrue. With these complaints on Frazier's record, the North Carolina State Bar deemed it necessary to disbar him - leaving him with no employment and a shattered reputation.

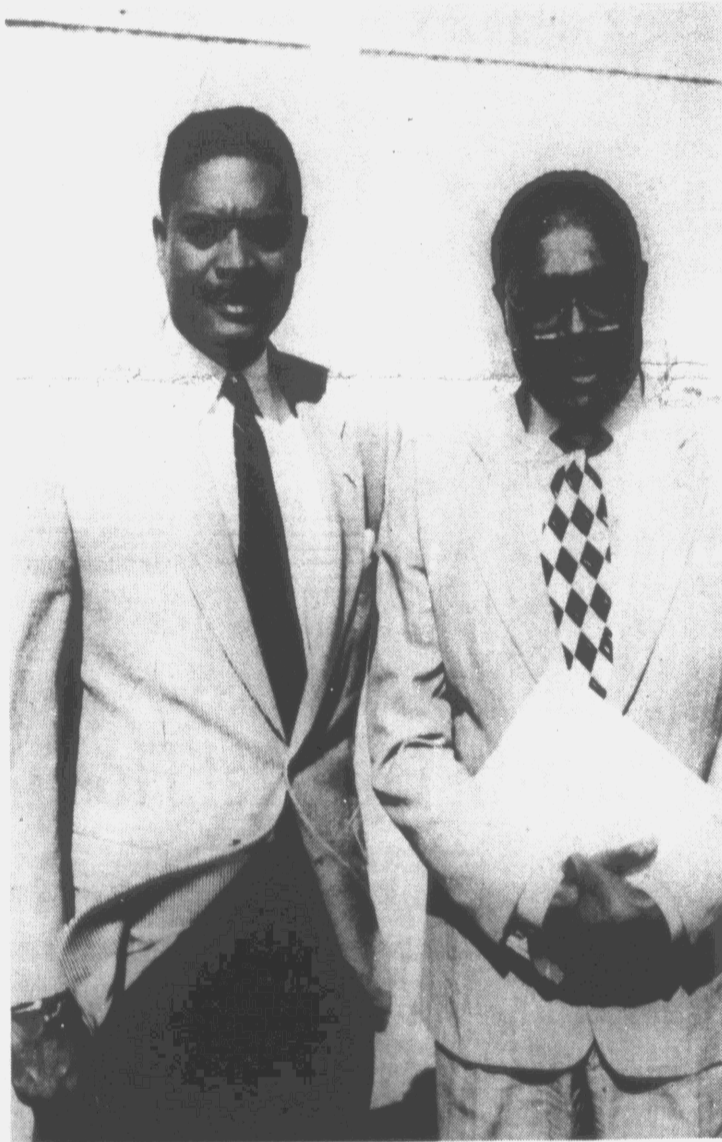
Frazier, known as an advocate for african-american civil rights, later explained that the \$750 judgment was labeled as an "uncollectible judgement". This is due to the fact that the neighbor charged with destroying the client's property could not be found under the name given by the client. According to Frazier, the client later confessed that someone who is a member of the state bar paid him \$300 for his testimony against Frazier.

The director of the state bar, who reportedly initiated this action against Frazier, was himself disbarred in 1993 for embezzling \$1 million over a period of 16 years.

Frazier said that he hopes to use this evidence (bribery) to show that there was a personal vendetta involved and that the bar's decision to disbar him was unconstitutional. currently, Frazier is waiting for a \$3 million resolution outside of Federal Court. He said that \$3 million would cover the financial losses he suffered while being disbarred.

Surprisingly, this case is not an isolated one. Only 2 1/2 percent of all lawyers in the state of North Carolina are Black. According to Frazier, fifty percent of all disbarments is suffered by black lawyers.

Frazier said, "If they do it to me, they can do it to them." He continued to say that the african-american kids who attend law schools will always suffer the brunt



PICTURED HERE ARE Reginald Frazier, Jr. and Reginald Frazier, Sr.

of racial prejudice—which is what we have been trying to eliminate from the political structure.

Frazier has filed a petition to enlarge a record on federal district court (Eastern District) to show the federal court that this is an action of racial prejudice. also, Frazier stated that he wants to show that racism should have no place in the justice process.

"We the black community cannot allow racism to exist because it will stop us as a group and individually," said Frazier. He concluded by issuing a challenge african-americans. The challenge is this—that we participate in the electoral process and become entrepreneurs because it is our responsibility and our duty to take advantage of our rights

## Watt says new district vital to election

By Estes Thompson  
Associated Press Writer  
Rep. Mel Watt, one of North Carolina's two black representatives in Congress, testified he couldn't have gotten elected without a new district that favored minorities.

Watt, who represents the 12th District, testified before a three-judge federal panel hearing a challenge to the state's redistricting, which created two districts in which blacks are the majority population. Watt is one of the state's first two black congressional representatives elected this century.

"I really never contemplated (running) until the districts as they are currently configured were created," said Watt, a lawyer who managed local and state campaigns before running for office himself.

"This is clearly North Carolina's urban district," he added. Watt said the urban communities in the district that snakes from Gastonia to Durham share many interests to be addressed in Congress, such as housing, affordable credit, jobs, transportation and banking.

The trial adjourned after final rebuttal witnesses, including a former Republican legislator who tried to influence redistricting. Closing arguments are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. April 18 and the judges will rule later.

Watt testified that he has offices in Durham, Greensboro and Charlotte that are staffed by local residents and that he has roving representatives that visit constituents in other towns.

"My thinking was this was a congressional district of people who feel like they have not had good (Continued on page two)

## "Stop the Violence": The black family conference

By Jackie Ruffin

Hampton University held its 16th annual Black Family Conference March 23-25, 1994. The keynote speaker for March 23 was the Reverend Jessie Jackson. The meeting was held in Hampton University's Convention Center from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. with the topic being "A Call to Disarm." Many schools came to participate in the conference. The conference held special attention on the issue of "Sustaining and Enhancing Minority Communities: A Challenge to Eliminate Handguns."

Dr. William Harvey, President of Hampton University said, "There should be concrete action of developing a strategy to defect handguns." "I look forward to the day when we can all say, the madness has seized," pronounced Harvey. "Reverend Jackson is a role model for justice, a role model for movement," complimented Harvey.

Reverend Jackson began his speech with emphasis on the voting rights issue. "For the right to vote two Jews were bull-dozed to death, for the right to vote a man named Jimmy Jackson was shot and killed in cold blood, for the right to vote a white woman was called a nigger lover, for the right to vote Medgar Evers was killed, for the right to vote four babies were killed in a church, exclaimed Jackson.

Jackson affirmed, "The youth should put hope over dope, give life and peace a chance, exalt values, turn pain into power and move on to higher ground." Jackson said, "So much bleeding, suffering and dying, self inflicted wounds, selfish behavior has caused man to become sick.

The majority of the students stood when Jackson asked, "Who knows of someone at school who sells drugs? How many of you know somebody on drugs? How many of you know someone with arms? How many of you know someone who has killed someone?" Few students stood when Jackson questioned, "How many of you have told or would tell on a drug dealer?"

"Your silence is a covenant with death, your silence allows drugs to incubate, mature and explode in your face, put your life in death," exclaimed Jackson. "Today we kill more than the lynching in our country," pronounced Jackson. "Blacks kill Blacks, Whites kill Whites, the poor kill the poor," state Jackson. "Put down the guns," reprehended Jackson. "We are conditioned to except violence as a way

of life, it's time for re-examination," declared Jackson.

Jackson explained, "Three strikes and you're out is a quick fix but not a solution." "The solutions are in programs dealing with prenatal care, headstart and access to college, early intervention, not delayed reaction," expounded Jackson.

"We shall be transformed by the renewal of our minds," stated Jackson. The Shadow Senator (Jackson) of Washington, DC said there was a need for more recreation for the youth in Washington, DC and throughout America. He also believes that recreation can enhance the attitudes of the youth. "There is nothing more powerful in the world than a made up mind," stated Jackson. "Put the weight on you to stop the violence, because slave masters do not retire, those who manufacture drugs will not give up, we must have the power to dismiss them, power in the mind," said Jackson.

"As long as the media can focus

on the police, there is no space to discuss health care, scholarships and jobs," claimed Jackson. The Civic Activist said that African-Americans should register to vote because they will have more power in the legal system.

Jackson explained how there is an existing fallacy in reaching goals in America, "At Risk, Clinton was at risk, now he's in the White House." "Use what you got and move on to higher heights, reiterated Jackson. Social influences such as, Gangster Rap, has become a part of the senatorial agenda. The Shadow Senator was in disagreement with the social communication in the lyrics of Gangster Rap, "those who make babies have an obligation to raise babies. We must raise the babies that we make!"

"I leave these challenges with you: A. Take your child to school, B. Meet your child's teacher, C. Exchange phone numbers of parent and teacher, D. Turn off your

(Continued on page three)



THE CLERK OF COURT OF EDGEcombe COUNTY - sister Carolyn A. White and her husband at a gala for black professionals. Sister White who is running for re-election in May 3 Primary urges everyone to go out and cast their votes for the candidate of your choice. Utilize your rights to promote a better Edgecombe County. The 'M' voice Newspaper salutes the Clerk of Court - Mrs. Carolyn A. White.