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2015-16 Trailblazers Honored

Data Zone Page 6

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Data News Celebrates 50

Golden Service Awards Recognizes Legends

The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2




Newsmaker

Trailblazer of the Year
Oliver Thomas

Page 5

State & Local

Flood Survivors Heed Warnings



Page 11

New Orleans Data News Weekly Celebrates 50th Anniversary



(Left to right) – Congressman Cedric Richmond, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California District 43, Sidney Williams, U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas (also husband to Maxine Waters) Terry Jones, Publisher and CEO Data News Weekly, and Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor

Eric Craig
Multimedia Editor

On Friday, August 26, 2016, New Orleans Data News Weekly concluded its 50th Anniversary Celebration with the People’s Golden Service Award Gala. The event was in downtown New Orleans at Gener-

ations Hall. Live music was provided by Kermit Ruffins and the Barbeque Swingers and other musical artist. The event was hosted by former news anchor Norman Robinson and Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publisher Association, was the keynote speaker. The event was sponsored by Macy’s, Liberty Bank,

Entergy, General Motors and WBOK 1230AM. The recipients honored at the first annual event included: Donna Brazile, Vice-Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee; Marc Morial, CEO of the National Urban League; Congresswoman Maxine Water, U.S. Representative for California’s 43rd District; Tanya Lombard, Assistant Vice-President of AT&T;

Cover Story, Continued
on page 4.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Commentary.	9
Newsmaker	5
Home Style.	10
Data Zone	6
State & Local News .	11

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



Dan Packer, Former CEO and President of Entergy, New Orleans with family and friends.

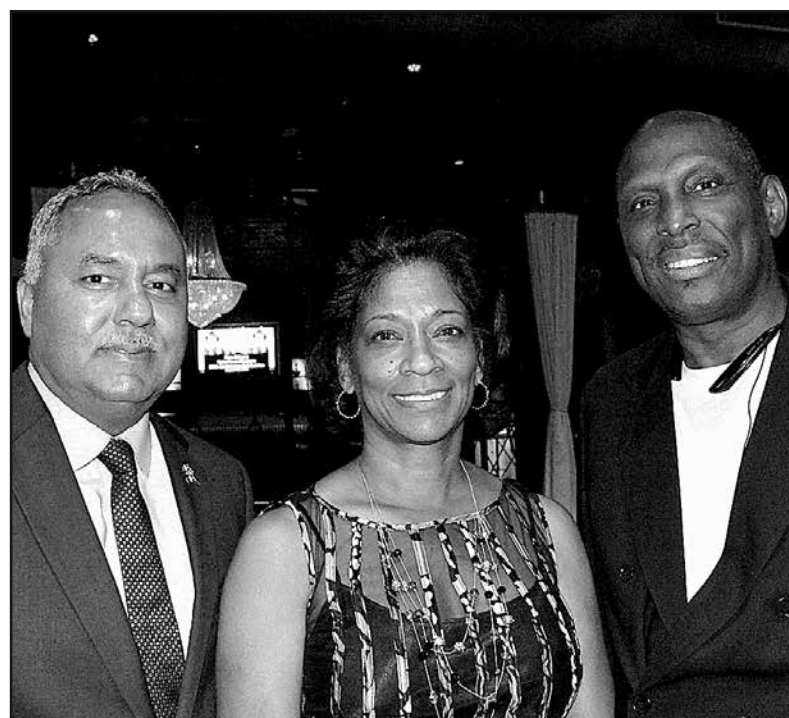


Sheriff Marlin Gusman

Sheriff Marlin Gusman
Congratulates
Data News Weekly
on their
50th Anniversary
and
a successful Gala.



Orleans Justice Center



(L-R) Marlin Gusman, Criminal Sheriff; Kim Brown, Lawrence Martin

Jim Farmer, Retired Vice-President of GMAC; and Dan Packer, Former CEO and President of Energy New Orleans Inc.

Terry Jones, Publisher of Data News Weekly, was proud to recognize all six recipients. He said the six people honored served as prime examples of leadership in the African-American Community.

Jones was also thankful for community support over the last 50 years.

"I'd like to thank you guys for supporting us," Jones said.

"What the keynote speaker said tonight is true. African-American newspapers are in trouble. But that's why we need you. We're the people's paper and we need you to help us survive," Jones added.

Jones wanted to thank guest for attending the 50th Anniversary Gala.

"I'd like to thank everybody that was able to attend the People's Golden Service Award. I'd especially like to thank Congresswoman Waters for allotting time in her rigorous schedule to accept the

People's Golden Service Award. I'd also like to thank Congressman Cedric Richmond, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Judge Michael Bagnieris, Juan Lafonta and Patrice Mercadel for being in attendance," Jones said.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters was happy to attend the event and spoke about Terry and his commitment to Data News Weekly.

"I've been with Terry Jones on the national level and he's always been about the business of our people. He's always helping to organize and talk about what more we can do to be that talking drums for Black newspapers. What more we can do to empower people in the community. I admire him and this newspaper," Waters said.

"To be in business for 50 years. To be able to maintain and to have the strength and courage to turn that paper out every week is admirable," she added.

Data News Weekly plans to continue to honor leaders across the nations in following People's Golden Service Awards.

Trailblazer of the Year

Oliver Thomas

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Data News Weekly recently celebrated its Golden Anniversary with two amazing events. The Annual Trailblazer Award Ceremony and the Inaugural Golden Service Award Gala. As we do annually, we feature a profile on the Trailblazer of the Year. This year's recipient is a person who has come to embody service and the spirit of giving both as a public elected official and private citizen. Oliver Thomas has for several decades been committed to the greater good of all New Orleanians. "It was one of the biggest surprises of my life. I was honored to be one of the Trailblazers throughout the year, but I had no idea that I would be selected Trailblazer of the Year. It was a joy and a surprise," says Thomas.

Thomas' story is one of rebirth and redemption. He believes that more people need to honor those who've turned their lives around and deserve a second chance. "I was so surprised at winning the award, but it wasn't totally about me. I feel it was God selecting me because I am a believer and that it must have been about something bigger for me to do in my service to others. As honored as I felt there are so many men and women who've struggled and turned their lives around who deserve an opportunity and are out there and we have to begin to honor them."

Oliver Thomas has been part of a legacy of service for many years, today he has become part of a long tradition as a member of African-American media, as host of the Good Morning Show on WBOK 1230-AM. Where he imparts information about affairs important to the African-American Community. "I was thinking about the importance of Data News Weekly and our African-American outlets in telling our story during the course of the ceremony and I've talked about it on the show," states Thomas. "Every week I encourage our audience to get a copy of Data News Weekly, the New Orleans Tribune and the Louisiana Weekly. It's so important because the articles that are there you are not going to get them any place else. And now I feel that Black journalist and Black media and Black publications are more important than ever."



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones, (left) and Glenn Jones (right) congratulate 2015 - 2016 Trailblazer of the Year Oliver Thomas. (photo by Glenn Summers)

He says he sees Data News Weekly and other African-American owned outlets as our modern Underground Railroad, charting the course and lighting the road to freedom. "I have been honoring all the Trailblazers on the show. I feel people need to know about these extraordinary citizens that are doing amazing things in our City. Something that I would hope may inspire them to want to dedicate some time to serve others." Then speaking of his radio program he says, "I try to use it to inform people and that is one of the biggest compliments I've gotten, is that it is a great community resource. I feel all the information that goes in my head that it is my job to go out and disseminate it for the community to use to become empowered."

Throughout his life of service, he's has had much praise and awards heaped upon him, but he still displays a great amount of humility. While being chosen the Trailblazer of the Year he feels is an honor; he feels it is an honor he shares with the others recipients at this year's event. This character trait of selfless giving is part of a spiritual foundation that is essential to Thomas' life and existence. "My spirituality comes from the strength of my family of my mom and dad. Secondly, it comes from my community."

Continuing to expound of the importance of his spirituality he cites the bible, "There is a passage in the book of Isaiah 43:19 I heard

Rev. Paul Morton and Bishop Robert Blakes talk about years ago. In these sermons they preached it says 'I would do a new thing in you,' I knew it sounded good but I did not know how relevant it would be in my own life and the life of others and how important the scripture would be in making me better than I've ever been as I evolve to reach new heights in life. So when I talk about faith, it is important to note that no matter where you are God will always be there waiting on you, so he can do something new to better your life."

As a lifelong advocate dedicated to empowering members of the community he says he always meets others who are deserving of the title and fits the criteria for a Trailblazer. Thomas feels it is because of these everyday heroes

that are on the frontlines making their communities better without regard to recognition is important to advancing the cause of the African-American and for humanity as a whole. He goes further and says of those who this title should be bestowed upon, "To put it simply, a Trailblazer is somebody that's not waiting for somebody else to do something that they want to do and that needs to be done. It's really that simple, Trailblazers are people who just get out there and do it; they are not waiting and I think that is exemplified by many of the people that you'll honor this year. That 99.9 percent of them are selfless and not thought about awards, but what stuff that needs to be done and they go and do it; somebody needs to be helped and they go help them. That is what Trailblazers do."

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data News Weekly Honors 12 Trailblazers in 50th Anniversary Celebration

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

This past week New Orleans Data News Weekly recognized its 50 years of service to the New Orleans community by honoring some of the community's most selfless leaders. The Trailblazer Awards, honored 12 individuals who were featured in Data News Weekly throughout 2015-16 year.

The 12 trailblazers included: Brother Willie Muhammad, Lionel Milton, Susan Henry, Erica Murray, PhD, Gail Glapion, Marian Pierre, Toya Barnes-Teamer, PhD, Sonita Singh, Gretchen Bradford, Terry Williams, Brandon Okpalobi and Trailblazer of the Year Oliver Thomas,

Publisher of Data News Weekly, Terry Jones, congratulated each of the Trailblazer Award recipients, thanking them for their undying commitment to the city of New Orleans and beyond and National newspaper Publishers Association President, Benjamin F. Chavis also congratulated Data News Weekly on its 50 years of service.

For more Trailblazer Awards pictures, visit www.ladatanews.com or visit our Facebook page @Datan-NewsWeek.



Terry Jones pictured with the trailblazers in attendance and host and co-hostess. (L-R) Terry Jones, Willie Muhammad, Oliver Thomas, Nia Limar (co-hostess), Brandon Okpalobi, Terry Williams, Glenn Jones (host) Gretchen Bradford, Marian Pierre, Toya Barnes-Teamer, Gail Glapion, and Sonita Singh



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(L-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly; Benjamin Chavis, CEO & President of NNPA and Glenn Jones (Terry's son)



Employees and volunteers - (L-R) Glenn Jones, Edwin Buggage, Glenn Summers, Chaleta Cooper, June Hazeur, Nia Limar, Eric Craig, and Terry Jones



Terry Williams, trailblazer with family and friends

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

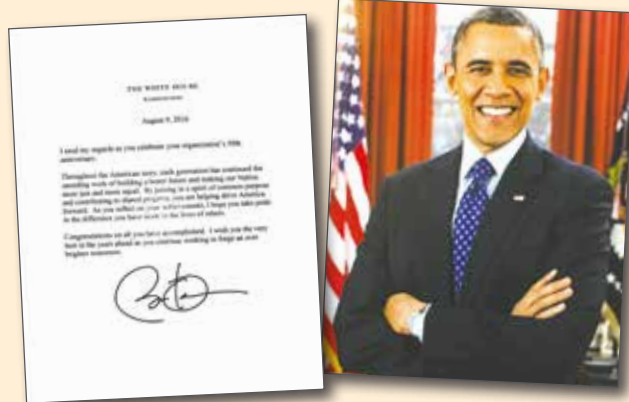
Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data News Weekly 50th Anniversary Gala

Photos by Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor

On August 26, 2016, New Orleans Data News Weekly celebrated its 50th Anniversary during its first annual People's Golden Service Award. During the event, live music provided by Kermit Ruffins and the BBQ Swingers. Additionally, there were several guests of honor including Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congressman Cedric Richmond, Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman and many more.

Letter from President Obama



President Obama congratulating Data on their 50th Anniversary



Eric O'Neal, Grand Master, Blue Lion Karate Academy and Terry Jones, Publisher & CEO, Data News Weekly



Congressman Cedric Richmond, Glenn Jones, Benjamin Chavis, President & CEO of NNPA; Terry Jones, CEO & Publisher, Data News Weekly; Sidney Williams, Ambassador to the Bahamas, Edwin Buggage, Editor, Data News Weekly



Jim Farmer, Retired VP of GMAC; Terry Jones, President & CEO, Data News Weekly; Sydney Williams, U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas (also husband to Maxine Waters); Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California District 4; and Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO of NNPA.



Xavier University of Louisiana Data News Weekly Interns - Delaney George, Mizani Ball, Nigel Palmer, DNW Multimedia Editor Eric Craig, and Prinsey Walker



Congratulations

DATA NEWS WEEKLY ON YOUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY.

Thank you for being there for the
New Orleans Community.

50 Years is quite an Achievement
keep up the good work.

Data Zone, Continued from page 7.



Kermit Ruffins, Trumpeter



(L-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly; Jacques Morial (receiving award for Marc Morial & Tanya Lombard); Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor



(L-R) Lloyd Dennis, Brenda Thornton, Tracy Mercadel and Joan Rhodes



Terry Jones, Publisher and CEO, Data News Weekly



(L-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data New Weekly; Dan Packer, Former CEO & President, Entergy, New Orleans; Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor



(L-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data New Weekly; Jim Farmer, Retired VP of GMAC; Norman Robinson, Former News Anchor



(L-R) Terry Jones, Publisher, Data New Weekly receiving an award from Terry Davis, Community Affairs Director of Cumulus



Judge Terri Love, State of Louisiana, Court of Appeals; and Kurte Pellerin, Owner, Regency Reception Hall



(L-R) Glenn Jones, LoveEvolution, Husband & Wife vocalist, and Terry Jones



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To Be Equal:

Hillary Clinton Stands on the Shoulders of Shirley Chisholm



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

The nation has marked the historic occasion of the first woman in American history to win the Presidential nomination for a major political party.

While Hillary Clinton has come further than any woman Presidential candidate, she is not the first. Victoria Woodhull ran as the candidate for the Equal Rights Party in 1872. Margaret Chase Smith challenged Barry Goldwater for the Republican nomination in 1964. More recently, Pat Schroeder in 1988 and Carol Moseley Braun in 2004 vied for the Democratic nomination.

But the most historically significant forerunner to Hillary Clinton was Shirley Chisholm, the Brooklyn-born trailblazer who was also the nation's first African-American Congresswoman.

The daughter of working-class immigrants from the Caribbean, Chisholm became interested in politics while serving as the director of a child day care center and an

educational consultant for the New York City Division of Day Care. She served three years as a New York State Assemblywoman before running for Congress in 1968 with the slogan: "Unbought and Unbossed."

"My greatest political asset, which professional politicians fear, is my mouth, out of which come all kinds of things one shouldn't always discuss for reasons of political expediency," Chisholm said.



Chisholm hired only women for her staff, half of whom were African Americans. "Of my two handicaps, being female put many more obstacles in my path than being Black," she said.

She announced her candidacy for President at a Baptist church in Brooklyn. In an article about her candidacy, the Associated Press wrote, "Ironically, her major headache seems to come from Black politicians."

"They think that I am trying to take power away from them," she said. "The Black man must step forward. But that doesn't mean the Black woman must step back.

his 83 Black delegates to cast their votes for Chisholm. With the votes of several other delegates at that contentious convention, Chisholm finished fourth in a field of 13, with 152 delegates.

It is hard to imagine, in this era of sharp division in politics, the remarkable moment during that campaign when she visited her segregationist rival, Alabama Governor George Wallace, in his hos-

one." She recalled that her words moved him to tears.

Chisholm retired from Congress in 1982 and remained an outspoken activist for civil rights until her death in 2005.

It would be difficult to overestimate the impact and influence of Chisholm's Congressional service and Presidential candidacy. While Congress remains disproportionately White and male, one-in-five members of the current House and Senate are a racial or ethnic minority, making the 114th Congress the most diverse in history. The nation's first African-American President is winding up his second term, and a woman – a former senator and Secretary of State – has just won the Democratic nomination for President.

In her acclaimed speech on the Equal Rights Amendment in 1970, Chisholm said, "The Constitution they wrote was designed to protect the rights of White, male citizens. As there were no Black Founding Fathers, there were no founding mothers — a great pity, on both counts. It is not too late to complete the work they left undone. Today, here, we should start to do so."

“Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes... We must replace the old, negative thoughts about our femininity with positive thoughts and positive action affirming it, and more. But we must also remember that we will be breaking with tradition, and so we must prepare ourselves educationally, economically, and psychologically in order that we will be able to accept and bear with the sanctions that society will immediately impose upon us.”

— Shirley Chisholm

While they're rapping and snapping, I'm mapping."

She competed in 14 states, winning 28 delegates to the convention. As a symbolic gesture, candidate Hubert Humphrey released

pital room after he was shot and wounded. "What are your people going to say?" he asked her. "I know what they are going to say," she said. "But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to any-

Marc Morial is the President and CEO of the National Urban League and is the former Mayor of the City of New Orleans.

Hey Donald, When Was America Great?



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Our American exceptionalism allows us to shimmer, too fully in our greatness. We are the biggest and the baddest. We are the best armed and the most influential. We win the most Olympic medals, and we have the most nuclear weapons.

We are so great that we wave our flags and shout out, "U.S.A! U.S.A! U.S.A!" In some ways, it is an imperialist chant, a chant of dominance, a chant that ignores the fact that we chant because we have the luxury, as a nation, of an uneven playing field, especially in terms of resources. I'm not jumping up and down and flag waving.

It took the Simones (Biles and Manuel) to win gold medals for me to celebrate the Olympics. It took just a flip of the switch, a flick of the kaleidoscope, for me to see it differently. While there is a great difference between the athlete who comes from a highly-subsidized Russian or Chinese environment

and one who comes from an urban area combining grit and corporate sponsorship, as in the United States, or those who either make it on their own or cobble together possibilities, all of these athletes are chasing greatness and perfection. Indeed, their obstacles may be a metaphor for the challenges that we all face in life. Some will be subsidized, some will scrap, and sometimes the cream rises to the top, regardless of barriers.

Even as Olympians strutted their excellence, enforcing the notion that America is "great," at least in our medal dominance, Republican candidate Donald Trump's campaign slogan is "Make America

Great Again." The use of the word "again" suggests that we were great, once upon a time, and that we have to regain something that we lost. When were we "great?" What have we lost? What does it take to make us great again?

Republican Presidential nominee Donald Trump said he views the 1980s as the time when things were good for the nation, though he also hearkened back to the late 1700s and early 1800s. "The industrial revolution was certainly ? in terms of economically ? that was when we started to grow," Trump said. "I liked the Ronald Reagan years. I thought the country had a wonderful, strong image."

The basis of the Industrial Revolution was a credit system that relied on using enslaved people as collateral to lend and spend for economic expansion. The North and South were always connected, even in war, with economics often trumping ideology. The Cornell University historian Edward Baptiste, in his book, "The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of U.S. Capitalism," connects the dots between southern oppression and northern complicity. The era that Mr. Trump touts includes legislation to penalize those who dare educate enslaved people in the early

Commentary, Continued on page 10.

The Blessing of the Herbs

Edited by LMG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly
Contributor

I just recently became acquainted with an ancient tradition which I had never heard of called The Blessing of the Herbs. Of course being a Master Gardener and never hearing of this before I did some research.

The Blessing of the Herbs is first of all a catholic tradition, so that is one reason that I knew nothing of it.

Generally celebrated on Aug 15th, which is supposedly the date of the Assumption of Virgin Mary. This blessing comes from Germany, and formulas for it are found as early as the Tenth Century. The Blessing of Herbs was reserved only to the Feast of the Assumption. Herbs had not our restricted English meaning but included all kinds of cultivated and wild flowers, especially those which in some way had a symbolic relation to Our Lady. The people brought herbs to church on her feast not only to secure for themselves, but also to make of the occasion a harvest festival of thanksgiving to God for His great bounty manifested in the abundant fruits of the earth. The herbs were placed on the altar, and even beneath the altar-cloths so that from this close contact with the



Eucharist they might receive a special consecration; over and above the ordinary sacramental blessing of the Church.

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/liturgicalyear/prayers/view.cfm?id=1132>

It is said that according to one version of the reason for this ritual, that the other eleven Apostles believed in the Assumption because angelic music played in the air over the tomb on the day of the burial of the Virgin Mother, and for three days after. St. Thomas, arriving after the music had ceased, refused to believe them until the tomb was opened and the absence of the body confirmed. According to another version, Thomas already knew and believed in the Assumption before coming to Jerusalem, and brought the others to the tomb to show them that the Virgin's body was gone; after which, they heard all the music together. A further addition to the story says that flowers were growing out of the stone sarcophagus in which She had been laid, and were the source of the sweet odor coming out of the tomb, confirming the Apostles' faith in Her Assumption.

<http://www.newliturgicalmovement.org/2015/08/the-blessing-of-herbs-on-feast-of.html#.V8BINI-cE5g>

Although most Blessing of the Herbs ceremonies are held on August 15th, the New Orleans Unit of the Herb Society of America hosted their Blessing of the Herbs on Thursday, Aug. 28th, on the Eve of St. Fiacre's feast day, just as it has for the past 16 years, however this was the first time the public was invited.

According to Herb Society members, St. Fiacre is the Patron Saint of Gardeners. He was told by the bishop of the area that he could build a garden on as much land as he could clear in a single day. "According to legend, angels came at night to help him, so that in the morning, a vast area had been cleared for his garden, and people came from all over to visit him and be cured."

The Herb Society's Blessing of the Herbs took place in the Walled Garden at the beautiful Longue Vue House and Gardens. The Garden at Longue Vue was designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman in 1938. She was the first female Landscape Architect in American, and was known for her formal gardens and lush planting style.

Check out my "Gardening tip of the Week" at www.thegardeningdiva.com

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!

Commentary, Continued from page 9.

nineteenth century, and the oppression of Black Codes in the post-Reconstruction era. Mr. Trump wants to make America great again? For whom?

Whenever anyone does that throwback stuff, "we used to be great," I have to wonder what he or she are nostalgic for. Do they wish they were in the land of cotton? Are they hankering for segregationist signs? Or are they simply pining for the days when, though it was

unstated, White was right and everybody else had to step. This manifested by the assumption of deference, the assumption that African Americans would step aside and allow a White person behind them in line to step ahead or shrugging off microaggressions because they

"aren't that deep."

Many have touted our "Greatest Generation," the World War II contributors, as people who made America great. Yeah? These folks had to elbow their way into our nation's service, fighting for the right to fight, struggling for the right

to contribute. Is this what you call greatness, Donald Trump? Are we all supposed to put blinders on to the cracks in our collective national armor?

Thus, it is exciting that President

Commentary, Continued on page 11.

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Flood Survivors Urged to Avoid Fraud and Other Scams

Data News Staff Edited Report

Louisiana recovery continues with the energy and work of businesses, voluntary, faith-based, and community-based organizations along with government agencies and committed citizens.

Unfortunately, disasters also bring out criminals looking to prey on survivors who appear to be rich targets for their fraudulent services.

Being cautious is essential to preventing rip-offs. Don't offer personal financial information over the phone. Know who you are dealing with. Never be shy about asking for identification. Government workers will never ask for a fee or payment. They always wear an official government photo ID.

Homeowners and registered FEMA applicants should watch out for housing inspectors claiming to represent FEMA or the U.S. Small Business Administration. Inspectors already have each applicant's nine-digit registration number and a FEMA inspector will not ask for this number. FEMA inspectors never require banking or other personal information. The job of FEMA housing inspectors is to verify damage. Inspectors do not hire or endorse specific contractors to fix homes or recommend repairs. They do not

determine eligibility for assistance.

Watch out for middlemen who promise you will receive disaster grants or money, especially if they ask for an upfront payment.

Many survivors have been living in damaged homes or in hotels and motels or other emergency accommodation while their primary residences are being repaired and rebuilt.

Keep these consumer safety tips in mind when working with contractors:

- Verify the license or registration number with the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors at www.lacontractor.org or call 800-256-1392.
- Get three written estimates for repair work. Then check credentials and contact your local Better Business Bureau or Chamber of Commerce to learn about any complaints against the contractor or business.
- Before work begins, make sure you get a written contract detailing all the work to be performed, the costs, a projected completion date, and how to negotiate changes and settle disputes.
- Louisiana, Attorney General Jeff Landry encourages you to use the following tips:
 - > Take a picture of your contractor, his/her vehicle, and its license plate.
 - > Take a picture of the contractor's business card and his/her driver's license.
 - > Photograph or scan his/her contracting license and insurance.



- > Photograph or scan the contract made with him/her.
- > Photograph or scan all checks and money orders made as payments to the contractor.
- > Preserve all these photographs

by emailing them to yourself and a trusted companion and/or by saving them in a cloud-based application.

- If you suspect anyone – an inspector, disaster survivor, or someone posing as one of these – of fraudulent activities, call the FEMA toll-free Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or your local law enforcement officials.
- To report a scam or sign up for consumer alerts, call Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry's Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-351-4889 or visit www.AGJeffLandry.com.

For more information on how to avoid fraudulent activities, Call 800-621-3362 (TTY: 800-462-7585) or Visit www.DisasterAssistance.gov or speak to a FEMA employee at a Discovery Recovery Center.

Commentary, Continued from page 10.

Obama signed an executive order to stop the rampant use of a distorted statement called the "Pledge of Allegiance." He wrote that federal office and contractors should not force employees to swear to "One Nation under God," and that's a good thing. One nation? With a Back unemployment rate twice that of the White unemployment rate? How do I pledge allegiance to a flag "and to the Republic for which it stands."

President Obama tickled me, for the first time during his presidency, by reminding us of the flaws in the Pledge of Allegiance. How do we transcend the flaws when Trump's "great again" message suggests "slave again" to me?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy." is available via amazon.com for whole and booking inquiries visit julianemalveaux.com



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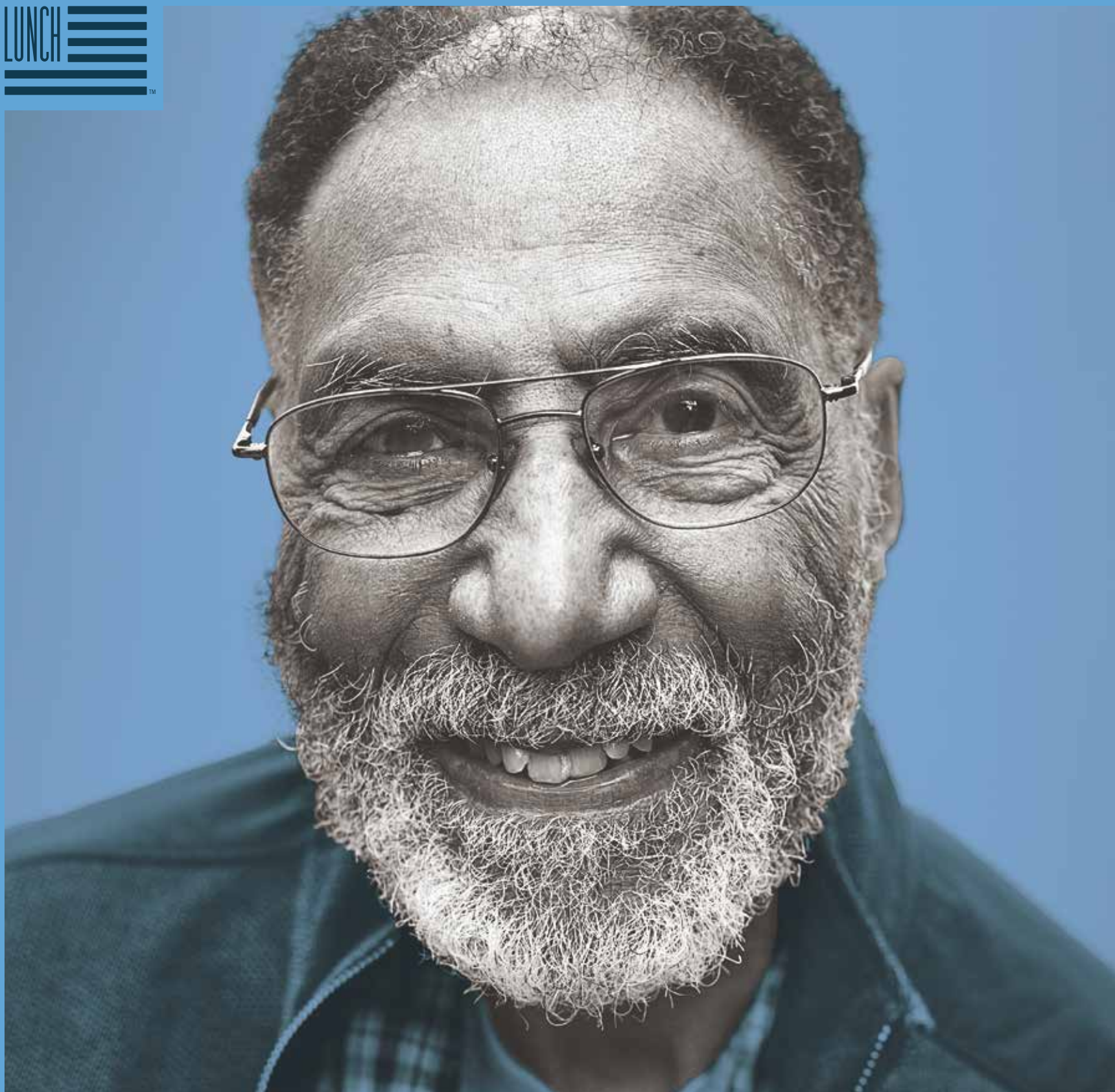
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