

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"




Celebrating the Life of Mr. Chill

Data Zone Page 6

January 11 - January 17, 2020 54th Year Volume 37 www.ladatanews.com

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive




Sunrise
April 4, 1968

Sunset
December 26, 2019

A Purpose Driven Life

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Anthony Bean a Living Legend



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Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson

1968-2019

The Definition of a Purpose Driven Life



A Home Going fit for a King as thousands gathered to say goodbye to Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson. People from all walks of life came out to say farewell to a man who was an inspiration to the City and its rebuilding post-Katrina.

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

The City of New Orleans today is thriving in the face of change after it was nearly washed away during Hurricane Katrina, almost 15 years ago. During these uncertain times, many believed the City would never come back. These were bleak, dark times full of hope-

lessness, but there was a man who provided a light of hope and became a hero during that time in the unlikely of places and with tools, one would not think of when rebuilding a City that was 80% underwater.

With a generator, a tent and a set of clippers, Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson, began cutting hair on the neutral ground aside the Shell Gas Station on the corner of Napoleon and South Claiborne Avenues. This place

like so many barbershops became a refuge, a place where people could talk about what they would do; a place of camaraderie in the face of uncertainty. In the ensuing years, Wilson became a torchbearer for many of the great initiatives aimed at rebuilding his City. He gave back and served others, setting a shining example and blazing a trail for others to follow.

On Dec. 26th, Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson passed

Photos by Glenn Summers and courtesy of the Wilson Family

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

away after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 51 years old. People from all walks of life attended his home going service, paying homage to a life that was amazing and purposeful. Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with his family about his incredible life's journey.

A Mother's Love

Leontine Dennis, Wilson's mother spoke to Data News Weekly on the eve of his home going service. "Wilbert was special to me; one of my children (whom) not a day passed without him giving me a call," she remarked with a tone filled with love as she spoke of her son.

"The amount of love, I have never seen this. Since he's passed there hasn't been a day, I haven't got calls from people who loved him so much. The love he had for people was unreal. The loss I have feels unbearable, but to know that the life he lived and the way he loved people, I believe he is at peace."

His life became the embodiment of what a City could do when it puts its best foot forward. Wilson's life was one where he started out with a small tent, but by the end of his life, he'd built a Superdome-like structure that could fit all people into it. On any given day in his barbershop, "Mr. Chill's First Class Cuts" or later on at his restaurant "Mr. Chill's Hot Dogs and Sweet Pastries," people from every zip code, race and class would come to support not only his businesses but his community outreach projects such as "Walk A Mile For A Child" and "Close Ties: Tying on a New Tradition," both aimed at helping the youth of New Orleans.

With passion and pride in her voice, Dennis says, "He helped people to be better. He touched people from all walks of life that came in to see him. The only time he looked down on somebody was when he looked down to pick them up."

Inspiring the next generation

Wilbert Wilson Jr. is the oldest son of Mr. Chill, who was the father of four boys that include Marcus and Willie Wilson and Cannan Cavalier. He sat down with Data News Weekly at the Barbershop as we sat in barber chairs "chopping it up" about his father's life and legacy.

"My dad, he would give you the shirt off his back and put you in a position to make better decisions. He always wanted to help people to go from the dark into the light and make a better life for themselves. He also said that sometimes it just takes that one person to believe in you and you can be a success," says Wilson, Jr.

For all who knew Mr. Chill, they knew him as a warm, generous and funny guy who could always put a smile on your face or give you a word of encouragement when you needed it. "I knew my father loved me and he gave me and my brother the focus and structure to be upstanding men. Much of what he taught and modeled for me as a father is a blueprint, I use in raising my four daughters."

Also, it is known that he was always "fly" and had an infectious personality and undeniable charisma. "He was the cool dad. He was like everyone's dad. The one that everyone wanted to talk to. He was at all the games, buying everyone candy at the games and talking the most trash. Just an energetic person around the board," Lil Wilbert (as he is called by family) says with a smile reminiscing about his father.

Continuing the Legacy of Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson

Some were concerned about the future of his businesses and outreach projects, but his son says all these things will continue. Speaking of the future plans Wilson, Jr. says, "We are going to keep growing it. My dad was at the stage where he was ready to take it to the next level in business and the things, we did to help others. In the spirit of my father, we will continue to push on and ask for the continued support of the community."

The entrepreneurial spirit runs deep in the Wilson family as Lil Wilbert, talks about his grandpa the late Willie "School Boy" Wilson. "My grandpa had businesses and taught my dad to have respect, dignity and a strong work ethic and he passed that on to me."

"Giving back is what we do. My grandpa owned limousines in the '60s, '70s, and '80s. He would let some of the kids who couldn't afford them use them for the prom and my dad with the tie tying events helping young men believe in themselves, this is what they did and what I will continue to do. To selflessly serve others in need."

As he walks around the shop preparing to lock the doors, he says in a soft tone reflecting and fighting back tears speaking of his father. "Near the end of his life, he pulled me close and said 'man you got business to handle. I taught you everything you need to know to be a success and fill my shoes and do even greater things'."

Family Matters

Wilbert Wilson was from a very large family and sitting in the renovated house where he grew up, people are everywhere reflecting



A moment of prayer before the home going service.



Close Ties and Walk A Mile For A Child are programs Wilson started to help inspire the youth of New Orleans.



Mr. Chill had a loving family who will continue his legacy on his legacy as a businessman and giving back and serving others.

New Orleans Clerk of Criminal District Court Issues Furlough Threat in Budget Dispute with City of New Orleans

The Criminal Courts Clerk in New Orleans has Pulled Back On A Furlough Threat that Would Have Crippled the City's Criminal Justice System

Data News Weekly Staff
Edited Report

Arthur Morrell, New Orleans' Clerk of Criminal District Court made a stunning announcement on Friday, January 3, 2020 amidst a budget dispute with the City of New Orleans proposing a furlough of 80 employees that would've crippled the City's Criminal Justice System.

The next day, Morrell rescinded the threat but the problem between Morrell's office and the City has caused a rift that if not resolved may have impact on the citizens of New Orleans.

In a statement Morrell said the City has failed to pay for his office's full contingent of needed staffers. He requested about \$4.6 million in funding for the 2020 budget and was granted about \$4 million. Though the awarded funding was an increase from the previous year, Morrell said the difference left "no choice" but to close up shop.

As the clerk's office is the only City agency legally authorized to perform some functions, the threatened furlough of about 80 workers would've made it so jailed inmates



Arthur Morrell, New Orleans' Clerk of Criminal District Court.

couldn't post bail.

Mayoral spokesman Beau Tidwell blasted the furlough threat.

"The Clerk of Court received a budgetary increase for 2020, and those funds are available for his staffing and operational needs," the statement said. "It is the expectation of this administration and of the people of New Orleans that all public servants, including the Clerk of Criminal Court, honor their commitment and do their jobs."

"This proposed threat of furlough did not occur, but if it would have it could have affected the lives of many people with some being laid off and others sitting in jail even if they had the money to bond out and this is not good for the people of our city," says John Leftridge, owner of Abra Ca Dabra Bail Bond.

"This is a dispute that needs to be resolved, because it is the lives of real people that are at stake whether it is those employed at the Clerk of Court office who would be losing wages or those who would have to sit in jail when they don't have to and this could have impacts on their lives and livelihoods as well."

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Anthony Bean to Receive 'The Living Legend Award' at SUNO on January 17, 2020

Center for African and African American Studies at SUNO

NEW ORLEANS - The Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) will honor and recognize Louisiana's own Anthony Bean at its Annual Living Legend Award Celebration on Friday, January 17, 2020, at the Millie M. Charles School of Social Work Auditorium on SUNO's Lake Campus, 6801 Press Drive, New Orleans, LA 70126.

The Living Legend Award is presented to a grassroots member of the New Orleans African American community for exemplary and life-long service. The award focuses on the area of education, youth development, community activism, community-based health & wellness, cultural enrichment, and small business development.

"Mr. Bean, Founder and Executive Director of Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School was selected because of his lifelong commitment and contribution to the Black community theater and cultural education," said Dr. Clyde Robertson, CAAAS Director and Creator of the Living Legend Award.

Since Hurricane Katrina, he continues to train, educate, mentor, and guide young people through the complexities of the stage and life. The conferment of this award is both a tribute and a necessary act of recognition and appreciation for a person who has uplifted an entire city. Therefore, all are encouraged to join CAAAS and celebrate the 2020 Living Legend, Mr. Anthony Bean.

There will be a reception from 6-7 p.m., which will include free



Anthony Bean, Founder and Executive Director of Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School was selected because of his lifelong commitment and contribution to the Black community. He is being honored with 'The Living Legend Award.'

food and a Vendor's Village where an array of culturally based goods will be sold.

From 7-9:30 p.m., there will be a program featuring distinguished speakers, performers, and a Key-note Address by Mr. Anthony Bean.

This event is free to the public and you can RSVP by calling (504) 862-PLAY or email: elisefelix@anthonybeantheater.com

The Center for African and African American Studies (CAAAS) of Southern University at New Orleans was formally established in 1989. As part of Southern University at New Orleans continuing and growing commitment to international and cultural studies, the Center seeks to provide innovative African and African American Studies Programs in teaching, research, and public service.

Council to Delay January Regular Meetings by One Week Due to Ongoing Recovery from Cybersecurity Incident

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS - Today, City Council President Helena Moreno announced that the Council will delay its regularly scheduled Jan. 9th and Jan. 23rd meetings by one week each due to the ongoing recovery from the cyber-attack in December. The new dates for January's regular Council meetings will be Thursday, Jan. 16th, and Thursday, Jan. 30th, 2020.

"While our City employees, national guard, and many volunteers have labored tirelessly to bring us back from the cyber-attack and resulting protective measures taken, access to critical documents and information is still limited for many city departments, boards, and agencies," said Council President Moreno. "We are delaying our



City Council President Helena Moreno

regular meetings this month by one week to help give staff more time to prepare material and documents in order to give the public the Council meeting they expect."

To complete this change, the Council will meet briefly on Thursday morning in a special meeting to amend the official calendar and formally resolve that land use and other pending legal deadlines be temporarily suspended due to the ongoing state of emergency as declared by the executive. All matters previously scheduled for consideration on Jan. 9th will be taken up at the meeting on Jan. 16th.

Council offices are open for regular business this week, although access to official emails and documents may be limited. Regular phone numbers and temporary email addresses have been posted on the City's website (nola.gov) for all Council-related inquiries. Continue to follow @NOLACityCouncil on Facebook and Twitter for additional updates and information.



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Celebrating the life of Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson

Glenn Summers
Data News Staff
Photographer

Thousands came out to celebrate the life and legacy of Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson. Data News Weekly was there to capture the home going of one of our City’s greatest treasures who inspired us and showed the City at its best.



The love of Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson’s life Joyce Wilson with family and friends celebrating his life and legacy.



Classmates of Wilbert “Mr. Chill” Wilson from Walter and Cohen Senior High School and friends at repast held at Zulu Hall.



Data Zone,
Continued on page 7.

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

Data Zone, Continued from page 6.



There was an outpouring of love from people of all walks of life for Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson, who lived a purpose driven life.



Thousands came out to the home going of entrepreneur, author, filmmaker and activist Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson.



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Join the New Orleans Chamber in
2020 and grow with us.



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

NewOrleansChamber.org

"Living Legend" Tom Joyner's Career has Transformed Black Media



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

Even as we enter 2020 with optimism and a sense of renewed purpose, there will be a huge void in our cultural life without the daily voice of radio legend Tom Joyner, who retired last month after nearly 50 years on the air, the last 25 as the host of the iconic Tom Joyner Morning Show.

It's hard for me to imagine the last 16 years of my life as President and CEO of the National Urban League without Joyner's enthusiastic support and clear-sighted analysis. Reach Media, the company he founded in 2001, has long been one of the National Urban League's most valued media partners.

Whenever the National Urban League has launched a new initiative or announced a campaign, the Tom Joyner Morning Show was always one of our first stops. There was no better forum for reaching Joyner's devoted and sizeable audience, or for thought-provoking analysis of the issues of the day.

In 2015, the National Urban League honored Joyner with our "Living Legend" at our Conference in Fort Lauderdale. His live broadcast from the Conference was a highlight of the week.

Our most important partnerships with Joyner have been around our education initiatives. A third-generation alumnus of a HBCU, Joyner has been a passionate advocate, with his Tom Joyner Foundation raising more than \$65 million since 1998 to support more than 29,000 students attending HBCUs.

Joyner's deep respect for education, and for HBCUs in particular, stemmed from the experience of his grandfather, Oscar "Doc" Joyner, a Pullman porter who attended Meharry Medical College and became



Radio legend Tom Joyner retired last month after nearly 50 years on the air, the last 25 as the host of the iconic Tom Joyner Morning Show.

one of only 3,000 Black doctors in the United States in 1909. Joyner and his father, Hercules Joyner, were featured in the documentary, "Rising from the Rails: The Story of the Pullman Porter." Hercules Joyner, who served as one of the elite Tuskegee Airmen, earned a degree in chemistry from Florida A&M College and spent most of his career as an accountant.

The Tom Joyner Foundation's "Hercules

Scholarship" is named in his honor.

"The Fly Jock" – a nickname he earned during the eight years he commuted between a morning show in Chicago and an afternoon show in Dallas – told CBS News he got his big break after a protest march in his hometown of Tuskegee, Alabama.

"I'm out there protesting the fact that our radio station in this all black town didn't play any black music. And this guy who owned a

radio station, which was inside a Ford dealership, came out and said I don't need this, I'm trying to really sell some cars," Joyner said. "Tell you what, it's a sun-up sun-down station. Every Saturday, I'll let one of you play all the Aretha and Temptations that you want."

In a career spanning nearly five decades, Joyner has never altered his focus on serving Black listeners.

"Don't worry about crossover. Just super serve, super serve, super serve," he told CBS News. "Anything that affects African Americans, that's what you do," he said. "Just worry about connecting to people and their needs."

We offer Joyner our gratitude for his many years of entertainment and commentary, wish him well in retirement and look forward to lending our support to his efforts to uplift the community through education.

The Saints Come Up Short in the Playoffs Again

Another Year, Another Heartbreaker

Kenneth Cooper
Contributor Think504

This time around, there's was no miracle, no real no-call. Some may say, Vikings tight end Kyle Rudolph pushed off on the game-winning touchdown, but bottom line, the Saints got out-coached this game, from start to finish.

Mike Zimmer and the Vikings came into the Dome with it on their mind. The game plan was clear: run the ball until the Saints could stop them. And that's exactly what they did. First down, second down, the Vikings controlled the game with their offensive line. Running back Dalvin Cook punished the Saints with 28 carries for 94 yards. He almost had more carries than Drew Brees had completions, and given a few more opportunities, he probably would've been the first back to gain over 100 yards against the Saints since 2017. When the Vi-

kings did throw the ball, Kirk Cousins had all day to survey the field.

Meanwhile, it's hard to say what exactly was Sean Payton's game plan. He never settled on a back to run the ball. The Saints split 17 carries among 4 different backs, preventing any of them from getting into a rhythm, and there seemed to be no back-up plan once the Vikings took Michael Thomas out of the game. Once again, only one wide receiver caught a pass.

After the heartbreakers the team dealt with the past two years, most pundits expected the Saints to come out and make a statement against an inferior opponent. Instead, the Saints never seemed to match the Viking's intensity. Or maybe the Saints were just exposed. All year they were limited to Michael Thomas when it came to passing the ball, and Sean Payton never showed the necessary trust in Latavius Murray to consistently establish a running



Saints quarterback Drew Brees had another record breaking year, but their season ended in a loss against the Minnesota Vikings in a home opener wild card game. Many are asking is it time for number 9 to hang up his cleats after his amazing run with the Black and Gold that includes winning the Super Bowl in 2010.

game. Ironically, despite all the balance, Payton showed over the past two years, this season he fell back into the same finesse play calling that plagued him most of his career.

Now, the team finds itself at a crossroads. They have a free

agent Hall of Fame Quarterback who is limited to midrange passes and dump-offs. They are severely limited at the receivers and have a defense lacking the playmakers to step up when it matters most. This is the 3rd year in a row, the

team found itself needing a defensive stop to advance in the playoffs, only to give up a tie in regulation or a game-winning drive. Much like the Patriots, the team is stuck in a where-do-we-go-from-here mode. Invest up to \$30 million in an aging quarterback or use that money to shore up the roster. Free agency should be interesting.

But here we are, dealing with another heartbreak, another year of what could have been. This one will hurt for a while, considering coming into the game the Saints were clearly the better team and seemed to be peaking on offense towards the season's end. Regardless, it ended up being the same team with the same results as the previous years. In the off-season, some soul-searching will have to be done as far as the direction of this franchise to avoid the team and fans finding themselves in the same position all over again.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

and giving each other support.

Marquitta Patterson, Wilson's sister says of her younger brother, "Wilbert was not only loved but cherished. He was always inspiring everyone around him to do better." As we are beginning the Carnival Season, I speak with one of Wilson's other sisters Michelle Rainey, who is the mother of 2019 Zulu Queen Kailyn Rainey. "I loved him and will miss him. No one was like him. He lived an amazing life filled with purpose. He always made me smile and always had kind things to say, and he loved his family and community."

Loving Life

Joyce Wilson, Wilson's wife is dressed in a t-shirt with several images of Mr. Chill on it. She is a woman of quiet dignity, the yin to Chill's yang that led to their great partnership. Not a woman of many words, she finds them while visibly saddened by the loss of the love of her life.

"I feel lost, scared," she says as tears roll down her cheeks. "Just last night to laugh as people talked about him made me feel o.k., but as the day went on, I was there by myself thinking about how losing my husband will change my life. To think about life with this man who meant so much to me and this community is hard." She reflects on the outpouring of love and how that means so much to her, to know how much he was loved. "So many people came through when they found out he was sick. Countless calls and visitors. I remember a guy knocked on the door and said Chill cut his hair and they both loved Donny Hathaway. Chill put Donny Hathaway on for him and I broke down because that was one of his favorite artists."

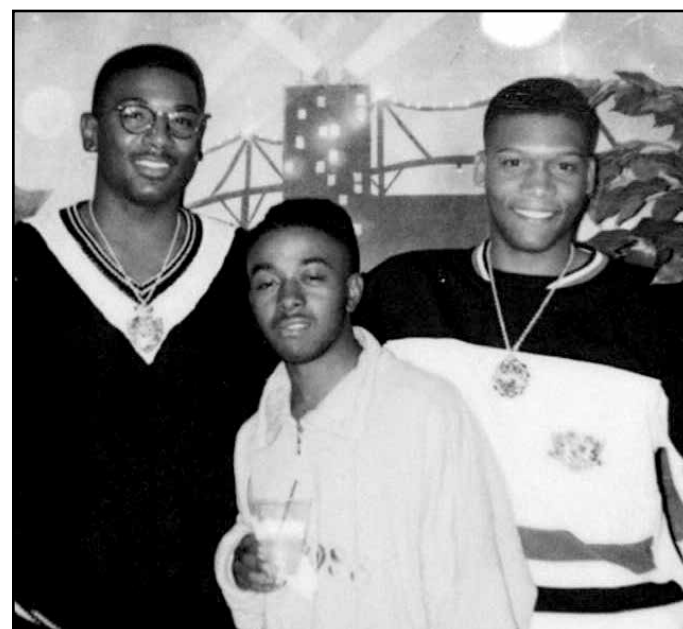
His Life and Legacy

Joyce Wilson says her husband was a man determined to do anything he set his mind to. She says that she will carry that on in her quest to put up a plaque on South Claiborne and Napoleon Avenues to honor Mr. Chill and his work to bring the City back from the ashes post-Katrina.

As we continue reminiscing about his accomplishments her tears dry and her voice lightens up with hope as she laughs, thinking of what her husband would say to her as she navigates through this tough time. I ask her: "What would he say?" With a smile, she says, "Bae you can do this."



Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson became a business and civic leader who was loved by many in the City of New Orleans.



With a generator, a tent and a set of clippers, Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson began cutting hair on a neutral ground aside the Shell Gas Station on the corner of S. Claiborne and Napoleon Avenues. Wilson became the torchbearer for rebuilding efforts of New Orleans post-Katrina. Showing ordinary people can do extraordinary things.



Joyce Wilson says her husband was a man determined to do anything he set his mind to. She says that she will carry that on in her quest to put up a plaque on South Claiborne and Napoleon Avenues to honor Mr. Chill



Mr. Chill's wife, Joyce Wilson, Wilbert Wilson and Mother Leontine Dennis.



Wilbert Wilson Jr. and Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage.

NOLA the World's Greatest City

Data News Weekly Bringing in 2020 New Orleans Style

Fleur De Lis Data News Weekly Columnist

Happy New Year from ya peeps Fleur De Lis, and I gotta say it feels good to be in the 5-0-4 even if the Saints didn't get to the big one this year. But you know our LSU Tigers still have shot at winning the upcoming College Football National Championship. So, we're still good either way.

Some of our folks are starting the year a little down right now, but we are a people who are resilient and definitely know how to squeeze the best out of life. Give us lemons we don't make lemonade we make daiquiris instead.

Also, we are blessed to be in a City like New Orleans where people know how to live life to the fullest and definitely know how to party. Data News Weekly brought in 2020 doing a little party hopping.

Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief, Edwin Buggage and Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones went to a few events around town to ring in the New Year with a who's who of the Crescent City.



Musician, Writer, Ethnographic Photographer and Actor Bruce "Sunpie" Barnes, Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones, Dos Jefes Cigar Bar Owner Shawn Stallard and Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage.



Edwin Buggage and City Councilman-at-Large Jason Williams.



Edwin Buggage and Internationally Acclaimed Trombonist, Composer, Producer and Educator Delfeayo Marsalis.

And you know that ain't nobody throws a party like a Who Dat Party!!! So yes, it was on and popping and a great time for celebration as well as reflection.

New Orleans is an interesting City to live in where people live to

celebrate life and regardless of people's station in life, they find a way to enjoy every moment.

It is a place that is so alive and even in death as we mourn, yet we dance the second line and have a grand feast as our loved ones go

home to be with the Lord.

I feel we are blessed to be in a City where there is so much joy and love among the people of New Orleans.

So, I ask of my 5-0-4 folks in 2020 to let our New Year's Resolution be to

love more, live to give and of course celebrate life and living every day. Get out and be part of the solutions to the things that plague our City and of course live your best life.

Until next time this is Fleur De Lis signing off.

National News

Majority Whip Clyburn Hails Passage of H.R. 3 Landmark Legislation to Lower Prescription Drug Costs

Also Includes Clyburn Effort to Expand Community Health Centers

NNPA Newswire

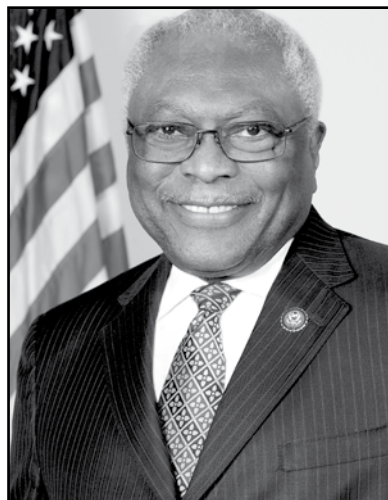
WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn hailed House passage of H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act. This landmark legislation gives Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies and extends those lower prices to Americans with private insurance too.

"This is an important step toward providing American consumers more accessible and affordable prescription drugs," Congressman Clyburn said. "In the United States, our drug prices are nearly four times higher than

in similar countries, and this legislation will provide real price reductions that will put significant money back in the pocket of consumers."

Negotiating lower prescription drug prices has the added benefit of cost savings to American taxpayers. A portion of those savings will be reinvested in the National Institutes of Health to research new cures and treatments. Cost savings will also support an expansion of Medicare benefits to cover dental, vision, and hearing needs and sets a \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for those on Medicare.

In addition, cost savings will be used to fund provisions of



U.S. House Majority Whip James E. Clyburn hailed House passage of H.R. 3, the Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act.

Congressman Clyburn's H.R. 1943 – Community Health Center and Primary Care Workforce Expansion Act of 2019. H.R. 3 will provide a \$10 billion funding boost to community health centers, which serve 28 million Americans in communities across the United States, including over 350,000 veterans, 8 million children, and 1.4 million homeless patients.

This \$10 billion includes \$5 billion for capital improvements and construction to expand the footprint of community health centers and an additional \$5 billion in funding over the next five years for community health center grants, allowing them to

serve more people, including Americans living in rural areas, where half of the Centers are located.

"Providing robust funding to build on the success of community health centers is critically important to providing quality health care in hard-to-reach communities," Congressman Clyburn continued. "In my district alone, where three rural hospitals have closed, there are eight federally-funded community health centers working to serve almost 190,000 patients."

H.R. 3 passed the House on a bipartisan vote, 230-192, and was sent to the Senate for consideration.

Family of Black Doctors has Social Media Buzzing

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
Correspondent

Dr. Herbert Oye is a Board Certified Endovascular and Vascular Surgeon, specializing in invasive and non-invasive treatment of vascular diseases.

Dr. Oye received his medical degree at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, according to his official biography.

His General Surgery residence was performed at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in Brooklyn, NY, an affiliate of Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Dr. Oye completed his fellowship training in advanced vascular and endovascular surgery at the Arizona Heart Institute in Phoenix, Arizona.

Perhaps, most impressive is that each of Dr. Oye's four children followed in their father's footsteps.

David, Monique, Michelle, and Melissa Oye, each said they were inspired by their father and all



"Our dad, Dr. Herbert Oye (fourth from left), is a Nigerian Immigrant. Upon moving to the United States, he attended medical school and has worked tirelessly to build his own Vascular Surgery Practice," the young physicians wrote in a statement on Facebook.

have become doctors.

"Our dad, Dr. Herbert Oye, is a Nigerian immigrant. Upon moving to the United States, he attended medical school and has worked tirelessly to build his own Vascular Surgery practice," the young physicians wrote in a statement on Facebook.

"Dad has since opened a hospital back in Nigeria and splits his time between the United States and Nigeria. We

are all currently in the medical field as a second, third, and fourth year medical student and a first year Internal Medicine Resident."

Each are attending or have attended the West Virginia School of Medicine. Monique, the eldest of the family, graduated in 2018. Michelle is in her fourth year, while Melissa is in her third year.

David, the only son of Dr. Oye, is in his second year.

Their success has social media buzzing.

"Sending congratulations to your amazing family of wonderful world citizens," Kathryn Stollmeyer Wright, wrote on Facebook.

Another Facebook user, Patricia Combs, wrote: "Well done. Congratulations for excellence in your drive, motivation, and ability to accomplish such great and momentous feat. You all are wonderful and blessed," Combs stated.

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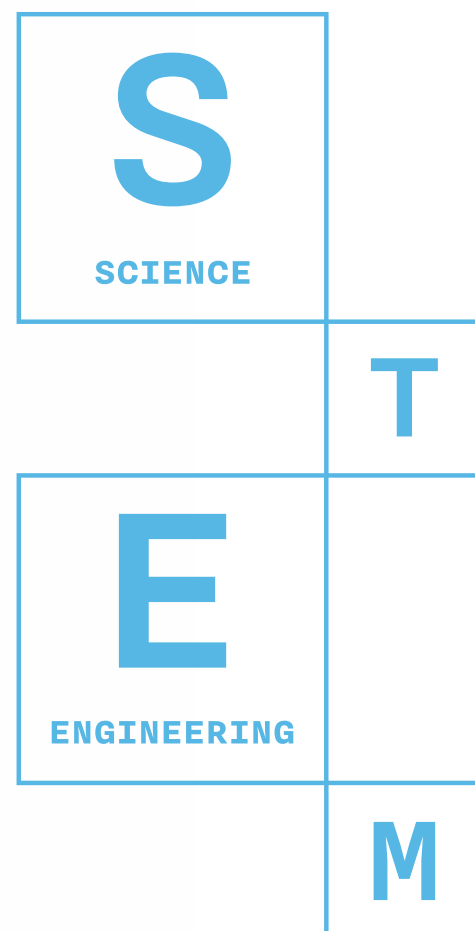
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