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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Honoring the Life and Legacy of

Sybil Haydel Morial

The Matriarch of New Orleans



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Honoring the Life and Legacy of Sybil Haydel Morial

The Matriarch of New Orleans



Sybil Haydel Morial, the Matriarch of one of New Orleans' most iconic political families, an activist, educator, and author. She was the Associate Dean at Xavier University for 28 years.

Sybil Haydel Morial, pictured with her family (L-R) Business Executive, Jacques E. Morial, former Mayor of New Orleans, Ernest "Dutch" Morial; Hon. Monique Morial; CEO of the National Urban League, Marc Morial, First Lady, Sybil Haydel Morial; Dr. Julie Morial, Medical Director Cheri Morial Ausberry, when they all were younger.

Terry B. Jones
Data News Weekly Publisher

Last week we saw the passing of a great New Orleansian and American. Sybil Haydel Morial, the matriarch of one of New Orleans' most iconic political families died at the age of 91.

Sybil Haydel Morial, was the wife of Ernest "Dutch" Morial, the first Black Mayor of New Orleans, and the mother of former Mayor and present CEO of the National Urban League Marc Morial.

During her storied and impactful life, she was a champion for civil rights, committing her life to education and equality.

She was an activist, educator, and author. She worked shaping young minds as the Associate Dean at Xavier University for 28 years. She was also a former Trailblazer with Data News Weekly.

The Morial family issued the following statement regarding her passing:

"Words cannot express our sorrow at the loss of our

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beloved matriarch and guiding star. Our grief is tempered by our overwhelming gratitude for her life, her wisdom, and her love."

"Like many women of the Civil Rights Era, she was the steel in the movement's spine. From the moment she met our late father, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, they were joined in the fight for justice and equality. She confronted the hard realities of Jim Crow with unwavering courage and faith, which she instilled not only in her own children but in every life she touched."

"As a teacher and university administrator, she imparted a reverence for education not only upon her own children but upon her students and the many colleagues who had the good fortune to fall under her brilliant mentorship."

"She remains the 'First Lady' to generations of New Orleansians, who join her children, Dr. Julie Morial, Hon. Marc H. Morial, Mr. Jacques E. Morial, Ms. Cheri Morial Ausberry, Hon. Monique Morial; her seven grandchildren, her great-granddaughter, and a host of friends, family, and



Former Mayor of New Orleans Ernest "Dutch" Morial and Sybil Haydel Morial together as they rose together and lived lives dedicated to making the City of New Orleans better for all citizens.

associates in our grief. We ask for the continued prayers of all who knew and loved her, and that our privacy be respected as we mourn our loss."

"A celebration of life will be announced soon."

Many people from all walks of life have given their condolences and sent well wishes to the Morial family. As Publisher of the New Orleans Data News Weekly, and as someone who knows the family and has pro-



Mrs. Sybil Haydel Morial, mother of former Mayor of New Orleans and the present CEO of the National Urban League, Marc Morial.

found respect for the work Sybil Haydel Morial has done to advance our quest for Civil and Human Rights, we honor her legacy. Indeed, in this crucial time in our nation's history, it is up to us to continue her life-

long fight to make the world a better place for all.

Our prayers go out to the Morial family to honor the amazing life of the Matriarch of New Orleans, Sybil Haydel Morial. May she rest in eternal peace.

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Rally Empowers Local Students to Make Impact in their Communities

Story and Photos
by **Shawniece Mitchell**
Data News Weekly Contributor

Local high school students attending InspireNOLA Charter Schools participated in the NOLALove Charter Schools and Rock of Ages Baptist Church's Celebration of Inspiration, Love, and Advocacy on Sept. 6th. Bishop T.D. Jakes, the Motivational Speaker and Christian Pastor, told students to commit to a life-long journey of making a difference, in a conversation with Jonathan Everett, the Pastor of Rock of Ages Baptist Church.

"You're going to spend the rest of your life defining your identity," Jakes said. "You won't be finished at 18. You won't be finished at 21. You won't be finished at 41. Because life keeps changing, and it keeps evolving. You will be excavating things out of yourself that you didn't know you had."

Student choirs from Edna Karr High School, Eleanor McMain Secondary School and L.B. Landry High Schools performed at Xavier University of Louisiana's Convocation Center, while New Orleans Rapper and Songwriter Mia Young, known as Mia X, offered students advice on navigating the teen years.

"If you're not going to remember something in five years, especially when it comes to matters of the heart, don't waste five minutes beefing on it," Young said. "Because what's for you is yours and nobody else's and what's for them is theirs and nobody else's."

Young also used anecdotes from her past to encourage the high school students to continue rising above life challenges.

"I know some of you have survived some things that might kill other people," she said. "You have continued to be strong, and I am begging you to focus and trust your dope-ness."

As the 2024 presidential election season continues, with many high school students eligible to vote for the first time,

Dr. Tammi Major, the Chief Executive Officer of Algiers Charter School Association, said she wanted to take this empowerment a step further - to the voting booths.

"Voting isn't just a privilege," Major said. "It's a powerful way to let your voice be heard, to stand up for



Edna Karr High School choir



InspireNOLA CEO, Jamar McKneely- grey suit and Rock of Ages Pastor Johnathan Everette- purple suit with students

what you believe in, and to shape the direction of your community, your state, and even your country. If we don't participate in this process, we give up our power to influence decisions," she added.

Several elected officials including

State Representatives Delisha Boyd, Candace N. Newel, and Matthew Willard and New Orleans Council Members Oliver Thomas, Jean Paul "JP" Morrell, and Freddie King, spoke to the students about the importance of using their right to vote.

"My call to action is please get involved, please register to vote, please show up to the polls and vote because that's the only way that you will be able to shape the future that you want to see," said Matthew Willard, La. State Representative for District 97.

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



Renown Pastor Bishop T.D. Jakes and Rock of Ages Pastor Johnathan Everett speaking with students doing a rally stressing the importance of education students held recently in New Orleans at Xavier University of New Orleans Convocation Center.



Students having a great time enjoying the event.



WDSU-TV Darryl Forges moderates a panel discussion with local leaders that includes I-r Council member Oliver Thomas, State Rep Delisha Boyd, State Rep Matthew Willard, City Council-at-Large member Jean Paul "JP" Morrell, State Rep Candace N Newell, and Council member Freddie King.



US Representative Congressman Troy Carter, speaking to students during the event.



McMain Secondary School Choir



L.B. Landry High School choir

Predictions for the Black and Gold in their Quest to Reach Super Bowl 2025

Dominik Reimonenq
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Saints Coach Dennis Allen and Saints Quarterback Derek Carr are hoping to make magic this year, but not all the Saints fans are convinced. The Who Dat Nation is in what many are describing as a weak NFC South Division, but the Saints have suffered from mediocre seasons for the past two years.

The Saints lost a tie for the NFC South Division Champion in 2023 with a 9-8 game record, and they were tied for last place in the division in 2022. Despite New Orleans being the host for this year's Super Bowl, many Saints fans do not forecast the Black and Gold as a contender.

Despite the obstacles, the Saints hope to keep the momentum from a Week 1 win against their division rival, the Carolina Panthers, into the rest of the season. The Saints outscored the Panthers in the Superdome on Sept. 8th: 47-10. For



Saints fans James Gray Sr., Julia Gray, James Gray III, June Gray.

their playoff hopes, the divisional games are must-wins if the Black and Gold want to end their recent playoff drought and start on the path to another Super Bowl.

"In my opinion, Dennis Allen was a mistake – as was Derek Carr," said Amy Brown, a Harvey resident. "The Saints need to rebuild after losing [their] Hall-of-Fame quarterback and coach – not pour

more money into free agency when [their] core isn't secure."

Sean Payton, the former head coach for the Saints, left after the 2021 season. Allen was promoted from defensive coordinator to head coach. For some fans, this wasn't enough change.

"The aura of the old Saints teams is gone," said Esther Laurent, a Metairie resident and season ticket

holder. "Dennis Allen was a part of those teams and what we need isn't that feeling because we can't recreate that feeling. We need to focus on putting together a new team spirit that can continue when [Spencer] Rattler is ready for the reins."

Candice Labit, a Kenner resident, believes that coaching needs to make tougher decisions to better the team as a whole. "I watch less and less Saints games due to the predictability of it all," Labit said. "We have all the pieces of the puzzle, but it seems like they change shape mid-game so nothing can truly build on the foundation laid out," she added.

For other fans, the quarterback isn't doing enough to inspire their confidence in the Saints doing well this season. "Derek Carr is the most uninteresting basic quarterback in the league," said James Gray, Sr., a resident in New Orleans East. "I've grown up and lived here my whole life, and this Saints team have got to be the sorriest team I've ever seen," he said.

Some think that the Saints are in a rebuilding time and that they're owed a few more dry seasons. "Since before I was born the Saints have been successful under Drew Brees," said Terrance Poole, a Metairie resident. But now, Poole said we are seeing that tide balance out.

Although the NFC South hasn't been significantly competitive in the past few years, the Saints have some major obstacles this time around. The Atlanta Falcons have signed veteran quarterback Kirk Cousins to lead their offense, the Carolina Panthers have a new head coach who is looking to help Bryce Young shine, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have won three division titles in a row.

"I've learned that teams must fail for long time before they have success for a short time. The Saints had such a strong run at the top of their division so they probably must suffer for a couple of years and then it will all work out again. Hopefully, before I am my parent's age," he added.

State & Local News

Rep. Troy Carter Urges Congress to Replenish FEMA Disaster Relief Fund

Data News Staff Edited Report

Last week Congressman Troy A. Carter, Sr. (D-LA) sent a bipartisan letter to House leadership and House Appropriations Committee leaders urging Congressional Action to replenish FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund (DRF). Reps. Jared Moskowitz (D-FL), Kat Cammack (R-FL), and Neal Dunn (R-FL) joined Congressman Carter on this request.

The DRF is the primary funding source for the federal government's Disaster Relief Programs. It funds "Direct Disaster Programs," which are the Individual Assistance (IA), Public Assistance (PA), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Programs. On August 7th, FEMA announced that the DRF had become depleted and implemented Immediate Needs Funding (INF)—redirecting money from other



U.S. Congressman Democrat Troy Carter continues to bring resources to his constituents in Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District.

programs to respond to the most urgent, lifesaving needs. Though FEMA can still respond to immediate disasters, implementing INF will result in stalled payments for past disasters and grant awards, potential staff furloughs, and delays in

future disaster planning measures. These delayed payments put communities at risk of future disasters by halting critical disaster planning and hazard mitigation construction projects. The agency projects a DRF Deficit of over \$6 billion by the

end of FY2024 without supplemental appropriations.

"Storms don't discriminate and it's more important than ever that we work together to save lives and prepare our communities," said Rep. Carter. "By replenishing FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund, we're ensuring that the federal government isn't only responding to current disasters, but also actively rebuilding from past events and mitigating future disasters. It's imperative that Congress acts again soon to make up this deficit so that we have a fully functioning FEMA, especially now in the middle of hurricane season."

"As the former Emergency Management Director for Florida, the financial state of FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund is incredibly troubling. This is the second year in a row that Congress has let the Disaster Relief Fund be depleted. I introduced H.R. 8716 in June to avoid this scenario,

but Congress has unfortunately become far too reactive instead of proactive. We must demonstrate to the American people that our government still works and can carry out basic functions like helping those impacted by disaster recover in their hour of greatest need. Emergency Management is something that shouldn't ever be politicized or used as a bargaining chip, and I'm thankful to my colleagues across the aisle for joining me in calling for this funding," said Rep. Moskowitz.

"In Florida, we're no strangers to natural disasters and the long recovery process that follows," said Rep. Cammack. "The Disaster Relief Fund is a useful tool to get communities back on their feet and to help those in need recover from these life-altering events, but it only works when it has the necessary funds to help the American people.

Commentary, Continued on page 7.

HUD Awards \$31.7 Million to Support Fair Housing Organizations Nationwide

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded \$31.7 million in grants to 75 fair housing organizations across the country as part of its FY 2024 budget, providing crucial support to initiatives aimed at eliminating housing discrimination. Among the recipients are two Washington, D.C.-based organizations, the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA) and the Equal Rights Center, each receiving over \$400,000.

The grants are part of HUD's Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP), with funds being directed to second- and third-year multi-year grantees of the Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI). These funds will enable the organizations to continue their enforcement efforts to address housing discrimination nationwide.

The National Fair Housing Alliance, located in Northwest D.C., works to eliminate housing discrimination through a wide range of programs including education, advocacy, enforcement, and public policy. The Equal Rights Center, based in Northeast D.C., focuses

on addressing discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations both locally and nationally.

These grants will support the organizations' fair housing enforcement activities, which include conducting investigations, fair housing testing in rental and sales markets, and filing complaints with HUD or state and local agencies. Additionally, the funds will enable educational outreach to inform the public and housing providers about the Fair Housing Act and its provisions.

"Ensuring fair access to quality and affordable housing for people who have been historically discriminated against is one of the foundations of our mission," HUD Acting

Secretary Adrienne Todman said in a news release. "These awards provide significant resources to our private partners on the ground to enforce the Fair Housing Act and promote inclusive communities."

HUD also extended financial support to five additional organizations, including Family Housing Advisory Services and Housing Opportunities Project for Excellence (HOPE), Inc., using \$500,000 in unspent funds from its FY 2023 budget. These grants fall under the Education and Out-

reach Initiative (EOI), aimed at educating the public and housing providers about fair housing laws and compliance.

"The Fair Housing Initiative Program continues to empower our state and local partners to advance fair housing at the grassroots level," added HUD Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Diane M. Shelley. "These funds will drive meaningful progress and lasting positive impact within the communities we serve."

Commentary, Continued from page 6.

I'm glad to join Rep. Moskowitz and my bipartisan colleagues in calling on Congress to refresh the DRF"

"FEMA is often the first line of recovery when disaster strikes, making it crucial to replenish the Disaster Relief Fund so that communities in North Florida have the support they need," said Rep. Dunn. "These funds must be appropriated ahead of time to ensure a swift response. It's vital that appropriation discussions take into account the disaster preparedness needs of American communities."

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Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

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We can't wait to hear from you!

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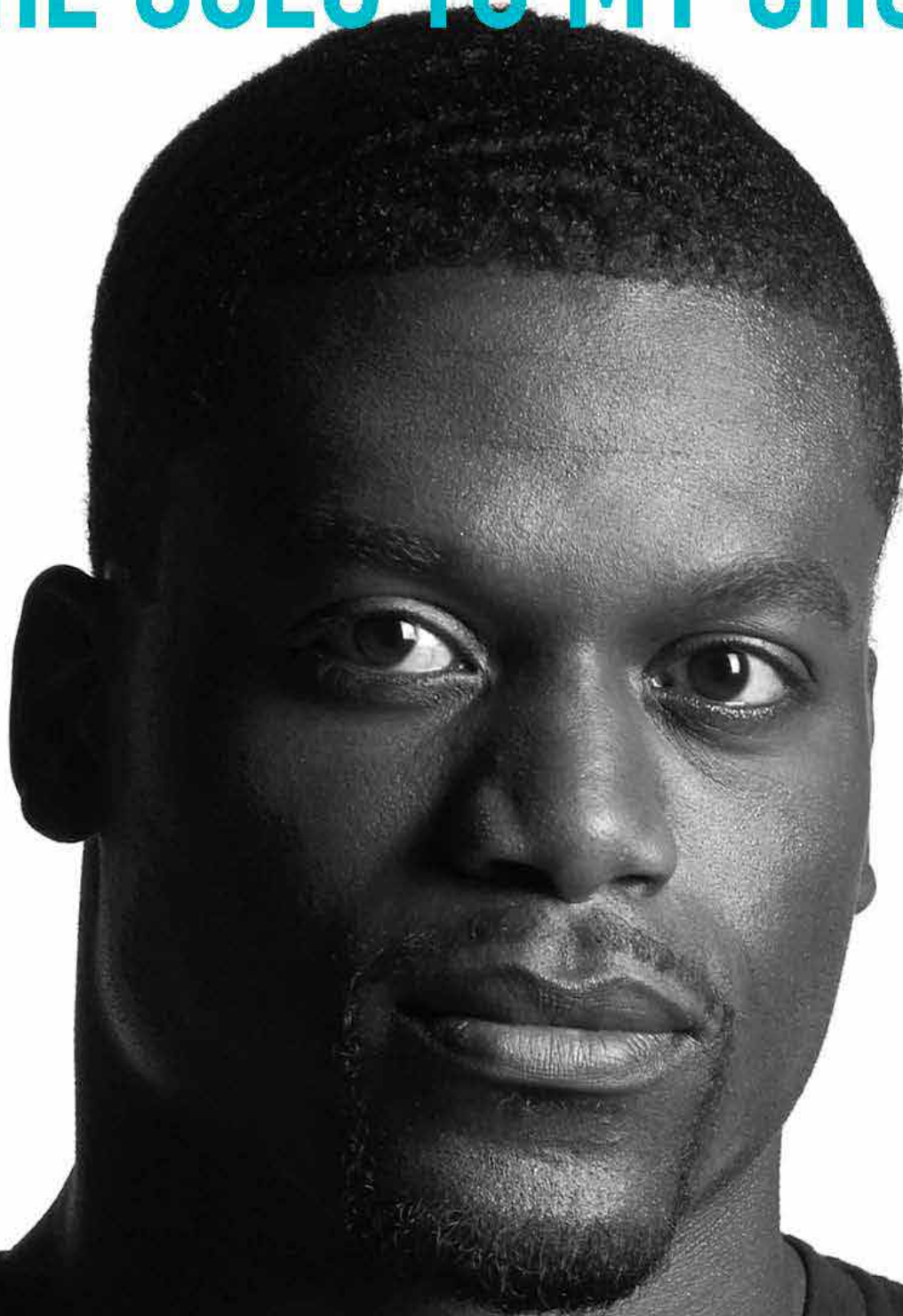
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