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# The Spirit of Selma

*A Call to Political Engagement on Its 60th Anniversary*



Civil Rights icons and present leaders participating in the recent the 60's Anniversary of the historic march from Selma to Montgomery.

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

It was sixty years ago, on March 7, 1965, that a group of determined activists set out from Selma, Alabama, marching for one of the most fundamental rights in a democracy: the right to vote and to live a life where freedom,

justice, and equality could be a reality for African Americans. As they courageously marched, they were met with brutal force on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, but their bravery in the face of injustice ignited the nation. “Bloody Sunday” became a defining moment in the Civil Rights Movement, ultimately leading to the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Today, in 2025, the fight for justice and democracy remains as urgent as ever. While the sacrifices of those who marched in Selma paved the way for historic gains, recent years have seen an alarming rise in voter suppression, gerrymandering, and attacks on democratic institutions. The hard-fought victories of the Civil Rights Movement are under threat, and complacency is not an option.

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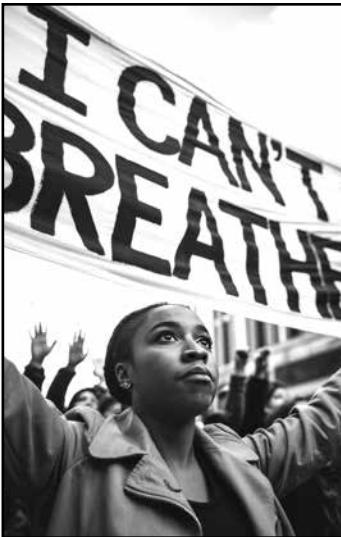
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Today, the struggle continues as issues of voting access, economic opportunities, criminal justice reform, access to quality education, affordable housing, healthcare and other important issues are of paramount importance in the African American community. In the current racial and political climate, it is time to organize communities to address these issues to honor our past freedom fighters and fight to preserve our hard-earned gains in America. This will take a renewed commitment to Civil and Human Rights.

We must not forget that the legacy of Selma is not just about remembering; it is about action. The bold activists who marched 60 years ago did not wait for history to unfold around them—they shaped it with their voices, their feet, and their unyielding determination for justice, freedom, and dignity, striving to reach their full God-given potential. That same spirit is needed now.

Political engagement—whether through voting, organizing, advocating for policy changes, or holding leaders accountable—is not just a right; it is a responsibility.

Moreover, the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement extends beyond the ballot box. Now, as then, the issues of economic justice, police reform, environmental justice, and access to quality

education remains battlegrounds where activism and political engagement are necessary. Just as the marchers of 1965 understood that voting rights were intrinsically linked to broader issues of racial and economic justice, today's activists must connect the dots between political participation and the policies that shape everyday life.

The 60th Anniversary of Selma should serve as both a commemoration and a rallying cry. As we honor the courage of those who marched—led by the late, great civil and Human Rights Leader John Lewis—we must also ask ourselves: What will future generations say about our commitment to justice? Will they see a society that upheld Democracy or one

that allowed it to erode under the weight of indifference?

History has shown that progress is not inevitable—it is won through struggle, sacrifice, and an unwavering belief in a better future. The best way to honor the legacy of Selma is to continue the work of “good trouble” that was started on that bridge. It is time to march again—not just in remembrance, but in resolve.

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# Vintage Vibes

*How to Rock Spring 2025's Biggest Fashion Trend*



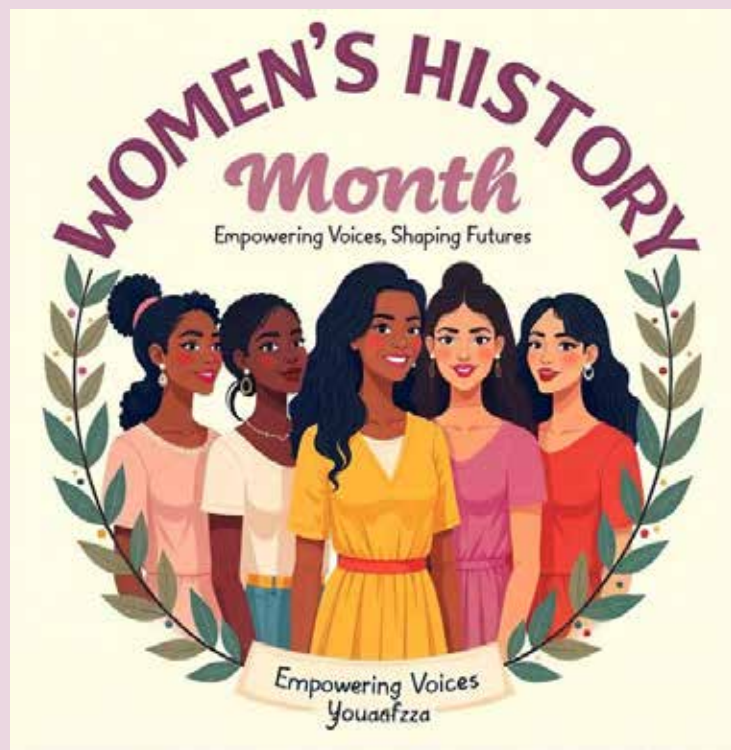
**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

This spring season one fashion trend is taking a stylish trip down memory lane! From '70s boho chic to '90s minimalism, vintage-inspired fashion is making a major comeback—but with a fresh, modern twist. The best part? You don't need to splurge on designer throwbacks to nail this trend. Here's how to seamlessly incorporate vintage vibes into your wardrobe without max-

**Data Zone,**  
Continued on page 5.



**Data News Weekly will present their Women's History Special Edition**  
**March 22nd, 2025**



**Deadline Monday,**  
**March 17th, 2025.**

## Call for Phenomenal Women

We can add your honoree to our list both in the paper and in a special section on-line for only \$100.00.

If you know of any women you feel or would like to have featured in this Special Edition due to her achievements we will need to know why she should be featured. Please send a short summary of her achievements with her name and position along with her contact information and a photo to:  
[datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com](mailto:datanewsweeklyad@gmail.com).

Also, please include your name and contact information. Thank you for your participation.



Data Zone, Continued from page 4.

ing out your credit card. A Trend for Every Generation. One of the reasons vintage-inspired fashion is having such a moment is because it speaks to both nostalgia lovers and first-time wearers alike. For those who rocked these styles the first time around, it's a fun throw-back with a refreshed twist. Meanwhile, younger generations who've never worn wide-leg jeans, babydoll dresses, or crochet tops are embracing these styles as brand-new, proving that fashion really does come full circle! And let's be real—Macklemore was onto something when he rapped about thrift shopping and rocking your grandma's coat. Vintage is cool, sustainable, and budget-friendly!

Here's How To Do It:

1. **Raid Your Closet (or Someone Else's!).** Before you start shopping, check your own closet—you might already own pieces that fit the trend! Think high-waisted jeans, silk scarves, structured blazers, or flowy maxi dresses. Better yet, take a peek in your mom's (or grandma's!) wardrobe. Vintage truly never goes out of style.
2. **Thrift & Vintage Shops Are Your BFFs.** One of the easiest (and most affordable) ways to



embrace vintage-inspired fashion is by thrifting. Head to a local thrift store, vintage boutique, to take a

deep dive into the world of vintage fashions; or troll online resale platforms like, Poshmark, or ThredUp

to score authentic pieces at a fraction of the price. Bonus: It's sustainable fashion at its finest!

3. **Mix Old with New.** The key to making vintage styles look modern. Mixing them with contemporary pieces. Pair a '70s-inspired floral blouse with sleek, tailored trousers, or rock a '90s slip dress with chunky sneakers and a leather jacket. This balance keeps your look fresh and avoids the full "costume" effect.
4. **Accessorize Like a Pro.** Accessories are the easiest way to add vintage flair to your wardrobe without a major commitment. For example – cat-eye sunnies, layers of pearl necklaces, beaded handbags, and retro-inspired hair clips can instantly elevate any outfit with a nod to the past.
5. **DIY IT!** Feeling creative? Transform basic pieces with vintage-inspired elements. It's as easy as adding lace details to a denim jacket, cropping an oversized band tee, or sewing on some funky buttons to give your wardrobe a one-of-a-kind, "old-meets-new" vibe. Spring 2025 is all about embracing nostalgia with a modern twist—so have fun with it! Whether you're a '70s free spirit, an '80s power dresser, or a '90s minimalist, there's a vintage-inspired look for everyone. No matter your generation, this trend is proof that great fashion never goes out of style!

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# The Theatrical Community Lost an Icon in Chakula cua Jua

**June Hazeur**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Chakula cha Jua born McNeal Cayette in New Orleans, Louisiana, passed away at New Orleans VA Medical Center on March 5, 2025. He was 79 years old. His loss is felt by the theatrical community.

Chakula was a theatrical genius. He was a renowned playwright, actor, poet, director, producer and educator, a product of the Historic Free Southern Theater. Chakula cha Jua has been an active voice in the New Orleans Black Community Theater Scene for more than fifty years. He was an icon in the theatrical community. His laughter will be missed as will he. He always greeted you with a smile. He was the life of the party. A joy to be around and an honor to be in his presence. He was a good man, kind and gener-



The Late Great Chakula cha Jua a Theatrical Icon and a product of the Historic Free Southern Theater and an active voice in the New Orleans Black Community Theater Scene for more than fifty years.



ous. He never married, had no children, only his beloved dog, Auggie Doggie who preceded him in death.

He was the youngest of four

boys and the last one to pass away. He is survived by four sisters namely: Bernice, Dolores, Jeanie, and Christine.



Over the years he has performed and directed with the Free Southern Theater, Congo Square, Ethiopian Theater, the ACT 1

Players, Ashe' Cultural Arts Center, Dillard and Xavier Universities and his own Chakula cha Jua Theater Company. He wrote plays for both adults and children.

Chakula's plays and poetry have been published in numerous renowned literary anthologies. He has received many awards and honors in his career, including Gambit Weekly's Big Easy Award, the Mayor's Arts Award, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Artie Award, the Big Chief Donald Harrison, Sr. Excellence in Teaching Award, We Will Dream Legacy Award, No Dream Deferred and the New Works Festival and in 2024 the Trinity City Arts Award.

He will be missed by everyone who knew him. The staff and family of Data News Weekly express their deepest condolences to his family in their loss.

May He Rest in Peace.

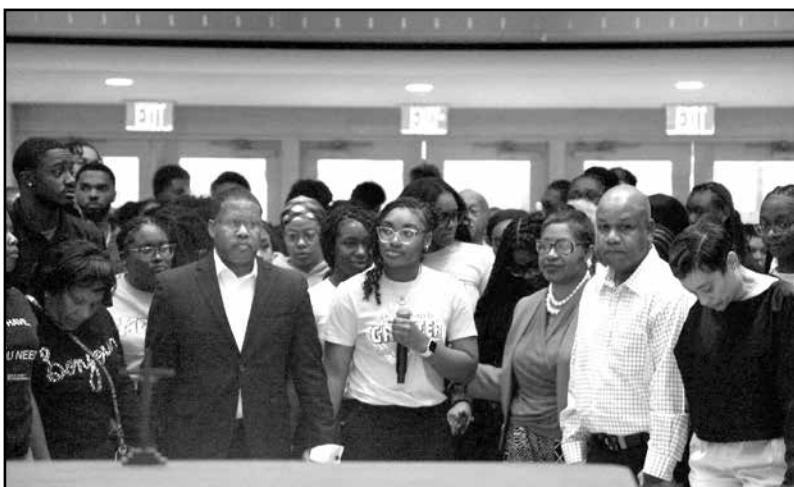
## State & Local News

# A Community in Mourning Remembers Caleb Wilson

**Story and Photos by**  
**Daelyn House**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

Friends and well-wishers celebrated the life of Caleb Wilson, 20, a beloved student of Southern University and A&M College, who tragically passed away following a hazing incident on Feb. 27th. Caleb, known for his warm personality, charisma, and musical talents as a member of Southern's Human Jukebox, had a strong impact on his community in his short life, his friends shared as they gathered with his family to honor the Slidell, La. native at Xavier University of Louisiana's Chapel on March 9, 2025.

"To know Caleb was to know love," said Rev. Dr. Mitchell Stevens, the Interfaith Chaplain for the Office of Campus Ministry at Xavier. Stevens, who shared that he was still reeling from Caleb's death,



Local college students, faculty and staff gather at Xavier University chapel to remember the life of Caleb Wilson.

led the community service, having served as the family's pastor for over 20 years, Stevens shared that he was quite familiar with Caleb and his family and spoke highly of Caleb during the service and the type of person he was to those he loved.

"I call him a bright light. He al-

ways had a smile on his face. Loved to have fun and was just a great, great person. Great, great person," said Stevens as he comforted Caleb's parents Corey Wilson and Urania Wilson who attended the service.

"He always had a smile on his face and wanted to put smiles on



Caleb Wilson

others' faces," Urania Wilson said at the service. "What you do today can affect you tomorrow. You drop your kid off to school expecting them to learn and be able to come back to you."

The nature of Wilson's death attracted national headlines and debate among members of the His-

torically Black Divine 9 Sororities and Fraternities. Baton Rouge law enforcement have identified the cause of death as the result of several punches to the chest as part of the hazing practice. Only one suspect has been arrested so far in the incident, however Wilson's family wanted to remember his spirit, as students, faculty, and staff of several local universities wanted to come to terms with his untimely death.

"All I could think about was to let the family know, let his friends know that it is okay," said Xavier student Nyla Brownridge, who led a prayer on his behalf during the service.

"The battle is the Lord's. It's not yours. God has plans for us, and those plans were not to harm us but for us to prosper," Brownridge said, offering comfort and strength through faith to family members and friends.

**Caleb, Continued on page 7.**



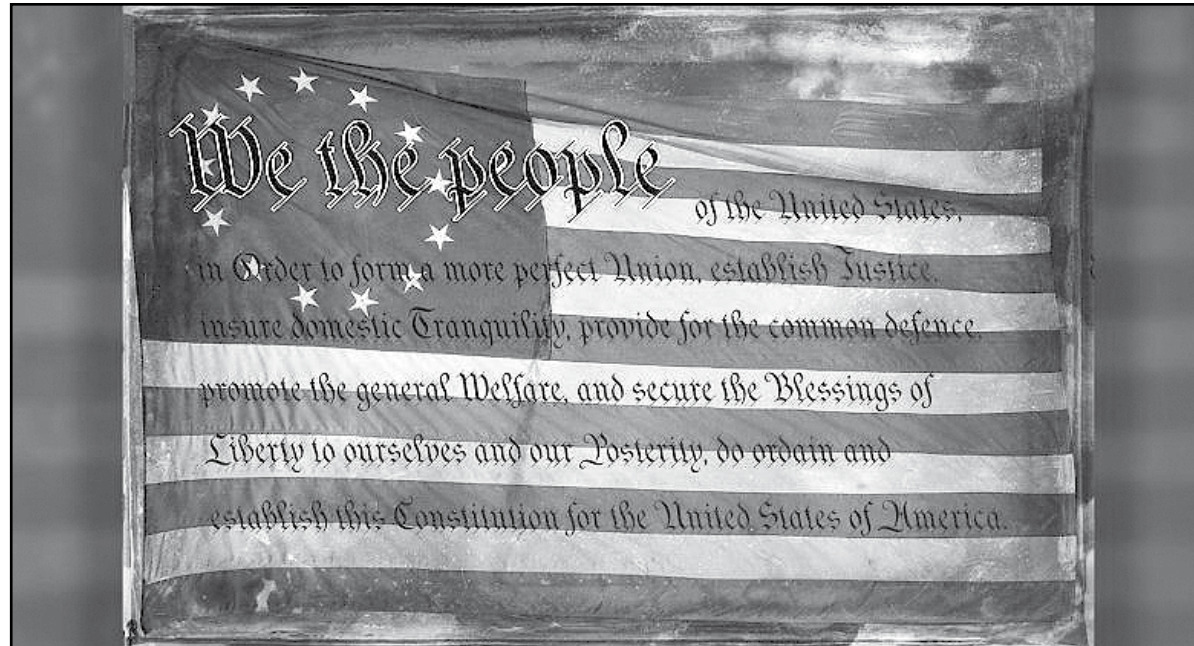
# 'We're Not Running from Our Own House'

## CBC Declares War on Trump, Musk, and Project 2025

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior  
National Correspondent

In what might be an unprecedented show of force, a powerful contingent of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) met with African American journalists inside the Democratic Whip's Conference Room at the U.S. Capitol, laying out their battle plan against Donald Trump, Elon Musk and the far-right's dystopian blueprint known as Project 2025. CBC Chair Yvette Clarke, First Vice Chair Troy Carter, Whip Sydney Kamlager-Dove, former Chair Steven Horsford, Reps. Jahana Hayes, Summer Lee, and the ever-outspoken Jasmine Crockett made it clear—while they lack the votes to halt Trump's cruel and life-threatening policies, they are on the offensive with one goal in mind: retaking the House next year to neutralize his agenda.

Many members argued that their presence at Trump's address was itself an act of resistance. "If we don't show up, they will have people filling those seats and a room full of sycophants cheering for his ass as he continues to gaslight us," Kamlager-Dove said. "So one oppositional thing to do is to show up and make him look us in the face and lie to our constituents. He's done nothing about the \$15 eggs or a damn thing to keep the planes in the air. An act of resistance is showing up and telling him to his face that he is



lying—just like an act of resistance is not showing up and telling him F—you." Then came Rep. Jasmine Crockett, the CBC's fiercest fighter, ready to take the war to Trump and the far-right machine. She zeroed in on the Black Press and digital media as crucial allies in breaking through the noise. "The [Black Press] is part of that strategy. To make sure you have a message from us to get out," Crockett said. "Everyone wants to pretend things are normal, but they're not. For everyone trying to be prim and proper, God bless them. Some of us, such as I, are a little rough around the edges, but people respond. Trump is idiot talk, but it resonated."

"But Black America has always been the trendsetters, and we

have that in the Black Caucus," she continued. "We have to make sure we are hitting all parts of our Black demographics. We will talk to them differently. We will engage in the podcast, we will do the platforms. I'm on every single thing." The CBC told Black

journalists they're also launching a bus tour—not just in their districts, but deep into Republican strongholds, bringing the Black Press along to document their fight. They insisted that this is no ordinary resistance. It's a declaration of war.

### Caleb, Continued from page 6.

Local students said they wanted to pay their respects and show support to the family as they felt deeply affected by his passing.

"To be able to have the community to pray with, and to hold hands with, and to talk with, and to celebrate someone's life is very heartwarming. But it is very emotional. It takes a toll on someone to lose a life, to be heartbroken by a life loss," Brownridge said.

Terrol Perkins shared that he met Caleb through a mutual friend at church, and he remembered his kindness and was struggling to process the tragic loss.

"I was devastated. To put

it lightly, I was speechless. I didn't even think it was real at first. It took a couple of days to resonate with me that he was gone," Perkins said.

As students and local HBCU campuses pick up the pieces from the tragedy, students say they hope his passing will not be in vain and will be an opportunity for positive change in his honor.

"I hope that his legacy is one in which we as a community, through his name and through what happened to him, stop this ongoing practice and just work together to build and foster brotherhood and sisterhood in different and productive ways. This practice must be stopped," Perkins said.



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