



Solomon Harris Receives 100th Birthday Celebration



Two guests on each side flank (Left to Right) Cheryl Harris Rouse, Rev. Charles Williams, Margie Joan Harris, Stella M. Lewis, honoree Solomon Harris, and Audrey Louise White.

BY DR. JOHN H. CUMMINGS, GUEST WRITER TO THE TIMES

ORLANDO - On November 19, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. there was a community service program to acknowledge the 100th birthday of venerable and beloved local citizen Mr. Solomon Harris. The location was The Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, 1110 Drew Ave. Orlando, Florida 32805. The enjoyable program was well attended by his family, friends and community citizens. Mr. Harris' daughters Margie Joan Harris, Audrey Louise White and Cheryl Harris Rouse attended the service.

Mr. Harris was born in Leon County, FL, November 22, 1923. He later became a master mechanic and settled in Orlando with his wife Yvonne to whom he was married for more than 60 years before her passing. With true entrepreneurial spirit very early on he became his own boss, purchasing parcels of property in the Washington Shores area that became a gas station and auto parts and body shop. He purchased a home in the area during the late '50s where they raised their 3 daughters and built a pool so that his girls did not have to swim in a lake or pool that was used first by whites.

Mr. Harris loves the Lord and his family and has been a diligent church worker and deacon for over 60 years and is now a member of Zion Hill for 25 years. Solomon has also been an added asset to the Washington Shore's community

for many years including mentoring to his nephews and many local young men among his many other civic endeavors. And even today at age 100 he will still climb atop a neighborhood roof if he sees it needs his repairing.

The commemoration program included presentations that well reflected the noteworthy life and legacy of Mr. Harris and highlighted his many achievements for our community and area. Notable among the inclusions were a Proclamation and letters that were presented by the event coordinator Ms. Stella M. Lewis, past President of the Washington Shores Neighborhood Association. The letters of recognition and commendation were from Congressman Maxwell Alejandro Frost of Congressional District 10, Mayor Jerry Demings of Orange County Florida, Mayor Buddy Dyer of the City of Orlando, Florida, Commissioner Michael Scott of Orange County District 6, and Commissioner Bakari Burns of the City of Orlando District 6.

Rev. Charles E. Williams, the pastor of Zion Hill Church delivered the occasion's memorable and stirring message with the subject being "Thankful In Troubling Times." The memorable celebration concluded with refreshments served by members of the church amid fellowship and further commendations to the appreciative honoree, Mr. Solomon Harris.

Six Triple Eight (The Stage Play)



BY GEORGETTE P. WARD

LEESBURG - Veterans, family and friends of Lake County experienced an early celebration of Veterans Day as they attended a historical play titled Six Triple Eight. The stage play was sponsored by Royal Highlands African Heritage Club, and held at the Royal Highlands Great Hall on November 4, 2023 in Leesburg, Florida.

Six Triple Eight is the name for battalion 6888, a group of Black Women WAC's who were commissioned to resolve a mail problem during World War 2. Mail had not been delivered to the soldiers in two years. It was the assigned task of the Six Triple Eight to get that undelivered mail to the soldiers in 6 months.

Ms. Mary McCallum, the playwright, systematically established the main conflict, the mail issue, but also made sure an important underlying issue: the perception whites held about Blacks: was strategically brought to the forefront by Major Dixon, superbly played by T'Keyah Crystal Keymah.

Many whites, not only those in the armed forces, thought Blacks were incompetent, and therefore wouldn't be able to do job. Get the mail to the soldiers in the allotted time, which was 6 months. Thank God for Major Dixon. She made a bet with the white Major Greer that they would succeed with the task and but also making sure that the mail would be delivered to the soldiers in three

months instead of six. Undoubtedly, a challenge – don't underestimate Black people.

Despite the white major telling Major Dixon she had undertaken a formidable task, Major Dixon attempted to dispel the perception of Blacks being incompetent and unreliable.

The four Black women roommates grappled with clashing personalities, cultural beliefs, and family drama. This was another conflict in the play that really connected with the audience, especially those who could identify people being born with a veil on their face, like Sadie, played by Mary McCallum, the playwright. Some Blacks have their doubts, but we do not discount the power of one born with a

veil.

The tragic death of a son of one of the women, who never was willing to accept Sadie's power to see into the future and her reaction to the tragedy was climatic. It created a reckoning of the two forces of Christian's belief and the supernatural beliefs in spirits.

Another issue bringing the reality of the mail problem to life for the soldiers was love and deceit. The characters included the youngest WAC, Sammy, who fell in love with Otis, a soldier, portrayed by Shawn Whitsell. Otis had a girl back home that he thought he loved but didn't know if the girl truly loved him. Sammy shows how love can make you act on emotions, but the way the incident played out, the audience

should have understood – love can make a person do stupid and selfish acts.

The play was well written and the heartfelt, compassionate cast, which included Molly Breen, Naeaidria Callihan, Jayan Downes, DaJuana "Dee" Hammonds, and Candace Omnira fantastically, pulled the two act play together for a successful evening of entertainment about an historical Black veteran's event, which many are not aware of.

I highly recommend that "Six Triple Eight" be seen not only for its true historical content about the role Blacks played in the United States Armed Forces, but the acting was intriguing.

Kudos for the play and its cast.

Legal Connections Wins Two Silver Telly Awards

Segments featuring Dr. Jeremy Levitt, Mark Dorosin and Kimra Major-Morris Recognized



Distinguished Professor of International Law Dr. Jeremy Levitt, Legal Connections host and FAMU Law alum Kimra Major-Morris, Esq., Director of Clinics and Field Placement Mark Dorosin, and FAMU Law Dean Deidre Keller

ORLANDO - The Telly Awards, the world's largest honor for video and television across all screens, has announced its 44th annual winners after a record-breaking number of entries.

Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law and Orange TV's cable television program, Legal Connections, has been recognized with Telly Awards for two video segments in the Information-Television

category.

FAMU Law Dean Deidre Keller presented the awards at a special program at the College of Law honoring the winners on Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

Distinguished Professor of International Law and Founder/President of the Stono Institute Dr. Jeremy Levitt received a silver Telly Award for a video segment featuring a life changing trip to West Africa for a small group of local teens.

"We must think out of America's box to conceive of a new paradox. Africa has transformative powers for Black Americans," said Dr. Levitt. "It's an honor to be recognized with a Telly Award for the video capturing this amazing trip. This opportunity truly made a huge difference in the lives of the young people who made the journey."

Associate Professor and Director of Legal Clinics and Field Placement Mark Dorosin received a silver Telly Award for his segment featuring a closer look at the legal clinics at FAMU Law and the students who participate in clinic work.

"The Clinic program at FAMU College of Law provides the most meaningful opportunity for students to gain practical, real-life legal experience and to fulfill our mission to provide legal advocacy to under-resourced residents and neighborhoods in our community," Dorosin said. "We are honored that the program received this recognition."

Along with Dorosin, Legal Connections host Kimra Major-Morris also received a silver Telly Award for her hosting role on the project. "I'm delighted to be recognized with this Telly Award for my work on Legal Connections," Major-Morris said. "Our show is

unique in featuring different aspects of the legal field through the eyes of faculty, law students, alums and community partners."

Legal Connections is a collaboration between Orange TV and FAMU Law. The show is in its fourth season. The program is produced and directed by Matt Juvinal of Orange TV. Stephanie Strong and Mildred Graham of FAMU Law are senior producers on the program. Legal Connections airs on Orange TV in Orlando and on FAMU TV 20 in Tallahassee.

"The caliber of the work this season coming from creators such as FAMU Law and Orange TV has truly reflected the theme of breaking out and standing out," said Telly's Executive Director Sabrina Dridje. "Our industry is experimenting with new technologies like never before, crafting truly compelling stories to draw attention to some of the world's most pressing issues."

According to Telly executives, this was a record-breaking year with nearly 13,000 entries from across the globe and top video and television content producers.

To view the winning segments, please click on the below links:

Journey to Africa, Dr. Jeremy Levitt <https://vimeo.com/773888020>

Legal Clinics, Mark Dorosin and Kimra Major-Morris <https://youtu.be/wjJPGelANZA?si=db2ubt1PtXoF4Qh3>