



THE BLACK MEDIA AUTHORITY

AFRO

130th Anniversary

GALA

VISION • LEGACY • CULTURE • OUR STORY

Saturday, August 13, 2022
Martin's Crosswinds

WHAT AFRO READERS SAY - - -

'I wholly disapprove of what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it.' -- Voltaire on Halvick

241,000 VOICES SHOUT OUT

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN, 1967
New Jersey unions give \$3,000 to NAACP

'Our Freedom Now'

Wartime Prejudice Turns A Moderate Family Bitter

THOUSANDS PRAY
Montgomery is
stunned and sad

REV. KING VOWS TO PUSH DRIVE
President avoiding
integration fight?

PUBLIC INTEREST VS. PRIVATE PREJUDICE

World Mourns King

Police Close Noose On Rifle Killer After Dixie-Wide Hunt

Scientists agree segregation
is damaging both races

GOP reject Demo's plea to
re-district plan

Boycott Will

Johns Hopkins is proud to celebrate
the AFRO's 130th anniversary.

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY & MEDICINE

Greetings from the Publisher

“A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation. It must always ask itself: whether it has kept faith with the common people; whether it has no other goal except to see that their liberties are preserved and their future assured; whether it is fighting to get rid of slums, to provide jobs for everybody; whether it stays out of politics except to expose corruption and condemn injustice, race prejudice and the cowardice of compromise. The AFRO-American must become a semi-weekly, then a tri-weekly and eventually when advertising warrants, a daily. It has always had a loyal constituency which believes it to be honest, decent and progressive. It is that kind of newspaper now, and I hope that it never changes. It is to these high hopes and goals of achievement that the people who make your AFRO have dedicated themselves. God willing, they shall not fail.”

These words, penned by John Henry Murphy, Sr. (1840-1922) were written two years before his death. Great grandpa Murphy, with \$200 in venture capital from his wife Martha Elizabeth Howard Murphy (a founding member of the Baltimore Colored Young Women’s Association), purchased the name AFRO and a printing press at an auction. As an emancipated man and a sergeant in the Civil War, the 52-year-old white washer understood what it meant to work hard to achieve one’s goals. He and great grandmother Martha had 11 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood. Most of their offspring worked in the family business, including my grandfather Carl James Greenbury Murphy who succeeded his father as publisher (1922-1967).

Initially the paper was supported strictly by readers, although some estimated that an overwhelming majority (98 per cent) could not read. However, as the subscriber base grew and the one-pager expanded to many pages in 13 editions, advertisers viewed the AFRO as one of the best ways to market their goods and services to an ever-growing, ever-influential African American population. Readers trusted the AFRO and other Black publications to not only print the truth but to be the prime source of accurate, affirming news for and about their diverse communities. Stories about weddings, funerals, graduations, church, and social events filled the pages of the AFRO, along with the current events of the day. And then there was the highly popular AFRO Cooking School, which drew



thousands to the Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore every year. Other AFRO programs included AFRO Clean Block (one of the oldest on-going environmental programs in the country) and Mrs. Santa. Both are still in existence today.

For the past 130 years, hundreds of dedicated men and women have worked tirelessly to realize the vision of the founder. But we must admit to great grandfather Murphy that we haven’t always “stayed out of politics.” Since the early 1900’s, we have supported our choices for elected office including our most recent endorsement of the young, energetic, highly qualified democratic nominee for governor, Wes Moore as well as Brooke Lierman for Comptroller and Anthony Brown for Attorney General (the AFRO got it right!). Today, we are still championing social and political change (including voting rights), still crusading for equal opportunity and access for all—still being the forceful voice for Black Americans in Baltimore, Washington and beyond, still chronicling the joys and sorrows of our community.

In this age of social media and news on demand, we have exceeded Great Grandfather’s desire for the AFRO to eventually become a daily as we are constantly posting to AFRO.com, as well as to Meta (where we have more than 650,000 followers), Instagram and Twitter (where we have 12,000 plus followers on each). We’ve even ventured into something called TikTok! And, with the help of AFRO Charities, we are working hard to preserve our rich archives so that more people can know about our rich history and legacy.

A couple of months ago, we received the National Newspaper Publisher’s Association’s coveted John B. Russwurm trophy for journalistic excellence and tonight we’re joined by a cloud of witnesses including elected officials, advertisers, community leaders, AFRO team members, AFRO board members and a few descendants of John and Martha Murphy. We also are grateful for our outstanding team of dedicated young (and not so young) journalists, graphic designers, sales specialists, social media and technology gurus, finance professionals, board members, industry partners and media executives past and present including former executive editor, Moses Newson, who joins us tonight.

A special thanks to our sponsors: AARP, Johns Hopkins University, BGE, The Greater Baltimore Urban League, Murphy, Falcon Law, TEDCO, George Mason Mortgage/United Bank, BWI-Thurgood Marshall Airport, Bank of America, Truist Bank, March Funeral Home, President’s Roundtable (PRT), Comcast, Wells Fargo, PNC Bank; our event planner CarVerPR; the always hilarious Tommy Davidson, the Absolute Band featuring Temika Moore, DJ Kid Capri; and Martin’s Crosswinds.

Indeed, *“A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God and in the present generation.”*

Blessings,

Frances Murphy Draper (Toni),
CEO and Publisher

U.S. SENATOR BEN CARDIN



www.cardin.senate.gov



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[@senatorcardin](https://www.instagram.com/senatorcardin)

August 13, 2022

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the 130th Anniversary Celebration of the *Afro-American Newspaper (AFRO)*.

Since its founding in 1892, the AFRO has served as an essential part of African-American communities in Baltimore and across the state of Maryland. This newspaper has not only remained an accurate news source but it has also been a space for African-American voices to be heard. The AFRO's influence has spanned decades and has shaped political and social change.

Today's event is an opportunity to celebrate the AFRO's legacy and to commend all of you for your dedication to our community, to journalistic excellence, and to shining a light on issues that are too often missed. Congratulations on 130 years of dedicated service. Best wishes for a wonderful gala and many more years of service and success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin L. Cardin".

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515



August 13, 2022

Dear Afro Newspaper Family,

Thank you for being the eyes, ears, and voice of our community for 130 years. We celebrate you today and each day for the irreplaceable role you play in documenting our history, telling our stories, and speaking truth to power.

We remain indebted to John H. Murphy, Sr., a former enslaved man, and his wife, Martha Howard Murphy, for founding the AFRO platform 130 years ago. From the earliest days until now, the AFRO has chronicled our lives from the end of Reconstruction through the Jim Crow Era, the Niagara Movement, World War I, the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, the first Black U.S. President and Vice President, a global health and economic pandemic, and our path forward.

Like so many others, my personal affection and respect for the AFRO runs deep. As a youngster, I made spending money delivering the AFRO newspaper to my neighbors who subscribed to the newspaper. I felt tremendous pride and power associated with the AFRO logo on my canvas delivery bag even at that young age.

Please accept my sincerest congratulations to AFRO Publisher Dr. Frances “Toni” Draper, Staff, and the Board of Directors for upholding the Murphy family legacy of challenging America to become a more perfect union. We owe you a special debt of gratitude. The AFRO is an iconic institution that we have a duty to protect. May you continue to be our voice for generations to come.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kweisi Mfume', written in a cursive style.

Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress

ADRIENNE A. JONES
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

10th Legislative District
Baltimore County



H-101 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991
410-841-3800 · 301-858-3800
800-492-7122 Ext. 3800

The Maryland House of Delegates

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

Baltimore Afro American Newspaper
145 West Ostend Street
Suite 600
Baltimore, Maryland 21230-3774

Dear Afro American Newspaper Family,

I wish to extend my congratulations to you as you celebrate 130 years of being the longest running African American newspaper in the country. The Afro has provided content and information vital, not only to the African American communities in Baltimore, but also to people throughout the region.

When John Murphy, Sr. purchased the paper he began an important advocacy that has been the key to participation of Blacks in all aspects of the community including education, the legal and public safety professions, science, and politics. The newspaper has provided well written news stories, editorials, and commentary that have been informative and thoughtful.

I wish the entire staff of the newspaper all the best as they continue the important work of providing news and information to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adrienne A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*100 Holliday Street, Room 250
Baltimore, Maryland 21202*

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the AFRO and the Murphy family on your 130th anniversary.

Founded by John Henry Murphy, Sr. – a formerly enslaved person – with a vision to serve his community and create a lasting legacy for his family, the AFRO has the distinction of being the longest-running Black-owned, family-owned company in the country.

Throughout the years, the AFRO has been a leading voice in the Black community, serving as a reliable source of news and information while providing insight to generations of families in an ever-evolving society. In times when mainstream media may have forgotten about the Black community, the AFRO was – and remains – steadfast in ensuring that the community is covered thoroughly and fairly. Now more than ever, the Black press is needed. We are proud to have such an enduring symbol of Black excellence embedded in the fabric of our city's rich heritage – which this organization exemplifies daily.

The AFRO not only tells stories that impact people of color but has the unique ability to simultaneously capture the best of Baltimore.

Congratulations again on 130 years of service to the City of Baltimore and the Black community. Your dedication to giving a voice to the voiceless and a platform for rising stars to shine is genuinely appreciated. On behalf of the people of Baltimore, I wish you many more years of continued success!

In service,

Brandon M. Scott
Mayor
City of Baltimore

Tommy Davidson

Davidson started his career as a stand-up comedian in Washington DC, earning an ardent following with sheer hard work in various comedy clubs. As one of the cutting-edge, young stand-ups, he was spotted by major concert promoters, who booked him as the opening act for A-list touring acts, including Patti LaBelle, Kenny G and Luther Vandross. It wasn't long before he came to Hollywood and was performing stand-up at a number of clubs, including the Comedy Act Theatre, where he met Robert Townsend. This led to his first national television appearance, with a starring role in *Partners in Crime* (2005) and was the conduit to Keenen Ivory Wayans, who proved instrumental in Davidson's career by offering him an opportunity to audition and join the uniquely talented cast of the most adventurous prime-time variety show of its day, "In Living Color."

Tommy's impressive film debut was opposite Halle Berry in *Strictly Business* (1991). He immediately segued into select high-profile films, starring opposite Jada Pinkett Smith in the romantic comedy, *Woo* (1998) (New Line), and in the provocative urban comedy, *Booty Call* (1997) (Columbia Pictures). His credits include numerous feature film roles, from Spike Lee's *Bamboozled* (2000), where he received acclaim and praise for his turn as "Womack/Sleep 'N Eats", to *Juwanna Mann* (2002) (Morgan Creek Productions) and the pivotal cameo in *Jim Carrey's Ace Ventura*.

His elasticity as a performer who delivers on both



the big and small screen led to other projects like the lead in the Disney's animated series, *The Proud Family* (2001), and as a host on FOX's "The NFL Show," alongside football greats Michael Irvin and Tony Siragusa. Davidson also portrays the lead in Will Smith's up-and-coming animated series, "Youngin's."

Tommy stars - along with 80 other star stand-ups - in *I Am Comic* (2010), opposite Tim Allen, Lewis Black, Sarah Silverman, Carlos Mencia, Jeff Foxworthy and Kathy Griffin. The film, which premiered on Showtime, is one of Netflix's surefire hits.

Tommy travels internationally selling out every venue in which he headlines.

Program



Welcome

Tommy Davidson - Master of Ceremonies
Comedian/Actor/Producer

Invocation

Rev. Dr. Marie Phillips Braxton
Great-granddaughter of AFRO Founder, John H. Murphy, Sr.

Dinner is Served

AFRO 130th Celebration Congratulatory Greetings *(Recorded)*

Mayor Brandon Scott, Baltimore City • Congressman Anthony Brown
Marc Morial, Pres. National Urban League • Congressman Kweisi Mfume
Kurt Schmoke, President, Univ. of Baltimore • Angela Alsobrooks, PG County Executive
Dr. Freeman Hrabowski III, President, UMBC • Rev. Jesse Jackson, Founder, Rainbow/PUSH
Micheal Eric Dyson, Professor, Georgetown University
Rev. Al Sharpton, Founder, National Action Network • April Ryan, White House Correspondent, The Griot
Congressman Jim Clyburn • Valerie Jarret, Former Advisor to President Obama
Gayle King, Broadcast Journalist • Senator Ben Cardin

Greetings and Remarks

Dr. Frances Murphy Draper (Toni), AFRO CEO/Publisher

Presentation of NNPA awards:

The John B. Russwurm Award for Journalistic Excellence
and The Publisher of the Year Award

Presented by, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr.
NNPA President, and CEO

130th Gala Celebration Champagne Toast **Congressman Kweisi Mfume**

Gala Comedy Show Special

Tommy Davidson
Comedian/Actor/Producer

Music Performance

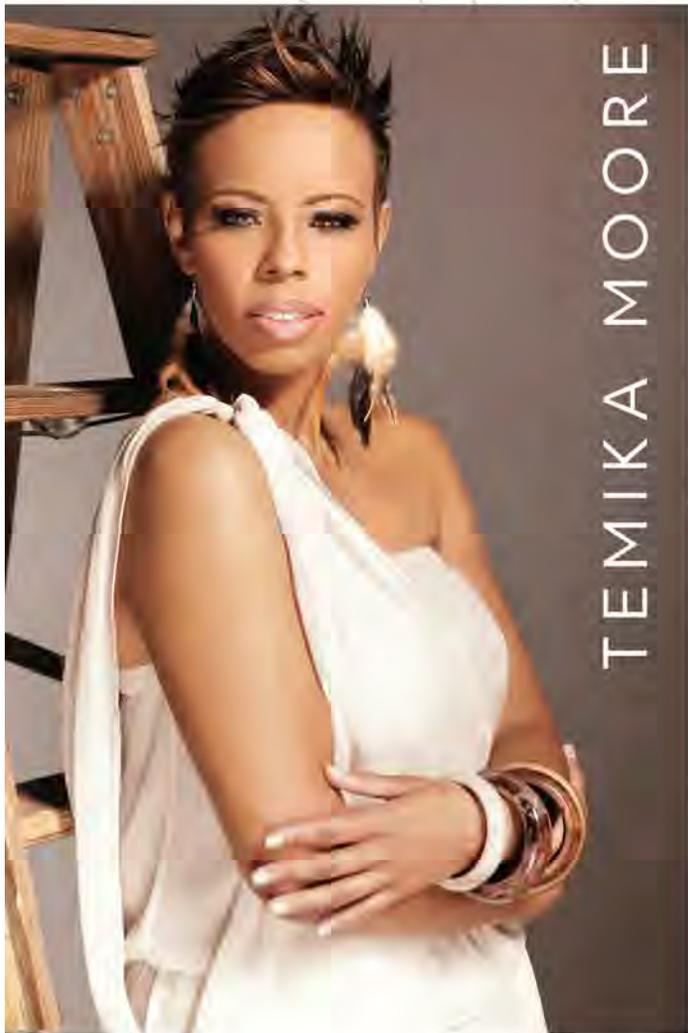
Absolute Music Band *featuring, artist Temika Moore*

Dessert

Dance Party-DJ Kid Capri



**Scan the Silent Auction QR code on your table card to start your bidding on the 130th Celebration Auction Items.
Visit the AFRO Swag shop located in the lobby to purchase your AFRO commemorative merchandise.**



TEMIKA MOORE

Born and raised in the fertile musical region of Philadelphia, home of the Philly Soul Sound and the renaissance known as "neo-soul," Temika attended the Philadelphia High School For Creative & Performing Arts. There she rubbed elbows with R&B crooners Boyz II Men, neo-soul song stylist Amel Larrieux, jazz bassist Christian McBride, Roots drummer Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson and Roots bandmate Tariq "Black Thought" Trotter, among others. The recipient of the first ever scholarship named for jazz great Ella Fitzgerald, Temika graduated from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and went on to hone her sound via live performances in the Washington, DC area and abroad.

Moreover, Temika Moore is more than an artist. She is also an arts and entertainment project management consultant, and the creator of Pink Panna Music Publishing. She is also a voting member of the Washington, DC Chapter of The Recording Academy (GRAMMY's), where she has held the office of membership committee secretary, and serves as a District Advocate for Music Creator Rights where she presents support for legislation before members of congress to advocate for music creator rights. Her background includes a combination of music production, music business, education, digital marketing, business operations and project management experience. She brings over 20 years of professional work experience which includes live performances, promotions, tour coordination, publishing, royalties administration, live event coordination, media sales, community outreach, as well as consulting with non-profit and for-profit organizations to help manage, and or improve workflow processes. Temika Moore has provided services to companies including Discovery Communications and Radio One.

Temika's talents have led her to share the stage with R&B/jazz artist Will Downing, jazz funk stalwart Roy Ayers, contemporary jazz keyboardist Marcus Johnson and the late saxophonist Stanley Turrentine. She has opened for Eric Benét, Chante Moore, Bilal, Kindred the Family Soul, KEM, Dwele, Sylena Johnson, Cassandra Wilson, Najee, Pieces of a Dream, and Jean Carne, among others. She has also served the congregations of the Mt. Ennon Baptist Church Praise & Worship Team in Clinton, MD, and Revolution Annapolis Worship Team in Annapolis, MD, as well as provided background vocal support for inspirational and gospel artists Jeff Majors, Dorothy Norwood and Deon Kipping. Additional career highlights include features and live performances on Fox 5, Philadelphia ABC/MasterCard Thanksgiving Day Parades, University of Maryland Eastern Shore Jazz Ensemble, Philly Pops Orchestra, Centric TV (Now BETH), Aspire Network, Music Choice Network, Bounce TV, SiriusXM Radio.

With a wealth of life experiences and an ever-increasing catalog of inspirational songs, Temika Moore is poised to spread the message of Inspirational Soul wherever "real" music is savored and enjoyed. "It is important for me to create music that is authentic and evokes a spirit of inspiration and empowerment," says Temika. "I create music that can lead to personal change." Take a listen and be inspired.

GALA CELEBRATION
DJ



KID CAPRI



MURPHY, FALCON, & MURPHY

Salutes

THE AFRO AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND
ITS OUTSTANDING PUBLISHER DR. TONI DRAPER &
STAFF ON 130 YEARS OF EXEMPLARY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

WWW.MURPHYFALCON.COM



Thank you to the Murphy family and the



for 130 years of serving the African-American community
and *keeping the faith* with your readers.

Your devotion to equity, inclusion and progressive values
across Baltimore and the region has been unparalleled.

United States Senator Ben Cardin

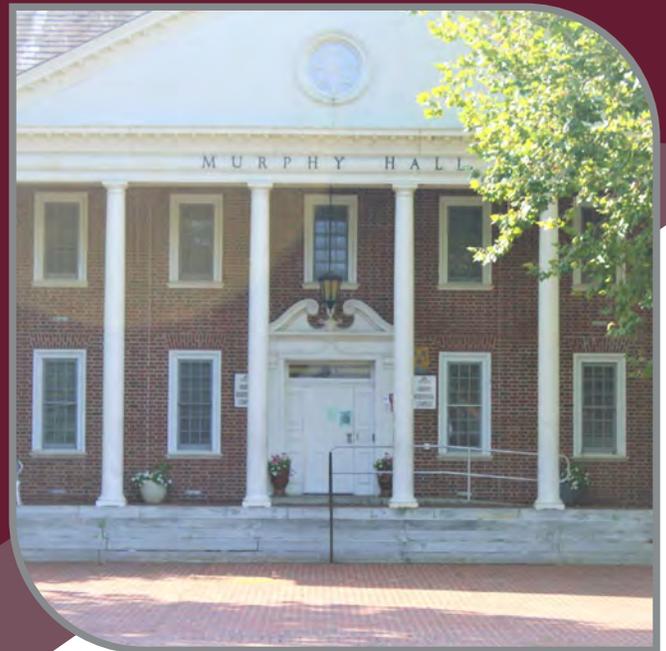
**BLACK LIVES
MATTER**

**BLACK
JOURNALISM
MATTERS**

Paid for by Ben Cardin for Senate, Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS
ON
130 YEARS
OF
VISION. LEGACY. CULTURE.

The University of Maryland
Eastern Shore celebrates the
lasting influence of The AFRO
with an Honors Residence Hall
named after founder
John H. Murphy, Sr.



**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
EASTERN SHORE**



[Arrivals at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport]

“In recognizing the **humanity** of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.

THURGOOD MARSHALL

Thurgood Marshall, the first Black Supreme Court justice, fought tirelessly defending the rights of others, especially people of color. Today, the international airport that bears his name is proud to celebrate the pioneering accomplishments of another great Baltimore icon, the *Afro News*. For 130 years, you too have provided a platform of positivity upon which the Black community could grow and prosper. You continue to make a difference every day.

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BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON
INTERNATIONAL
Thurgood Marshall
A I R P O R T

The President's Roundtable is proud to support



The Presidents' RoundTable is an organization of African American entrepreneurs in the Baltimore-Washington, D.C. region. We strive to improve access to opportunities for all minority entrepreneurs, enhance the quality of life in our communities, and help members build business capacity, and support members through resource sharing and peer experience.



MAHOGANY



910 West Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21223

410.727.0334

MAHOGANYINC.COM



Moses J. Newson

2018 (February)

Honored by Roots of Scouting, Inc., with its Life Time Community Service Award

2014 (Jan. 16)

Inducted into the Hall of Fame, National Association of Black Journalists

2008 (April)

Inducted into Hall of Fame of the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association

1995 (Jan.) - **Present**

Retired

1998

Co-author, "Fighting for Fairness: The Life Story of Hall of Fame Sportswriter Sam Lacy"

1978 - 1995

Public Affairs Specialist, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C

1957 - 1978

Reporter, City Editor 10 years for the Baltimore Afro-American Newspaper's twice weekly city editions; last 10 years as executive editor for the then-13 edition chain. That included a national paper and offices with staffs in Washington, DC (twice weekly), Richmond, VA, Philadelphia, PA, and Newark, NJ.

1952 - 1957

Reporter, City Editor of the Tri-State Defender, Memphis, Tenn.



1948 - 1952

Storer College, W.VA.; School of Journalism, Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri. Received BJ Degree

1945 - 1947

Served in the U.S. Navy, received honorable discharge

As a newsman covered wide range of stories. Emmett Till case in Mississippi. desegregation Hoxie, Ark.; desegregation in Clinton, Tenn.; desegregation of Central High in Little Rock; desegregation at University of Mississippi; the May 1961 CORE Freedom Ride, the Independence Ceremony in the Bahamas, a Commonwealth Nations meeting in Jamaica, post civil war stories

in Nigeria, and events in Panama, South Africa, and Cuba. Covered four presidential nomination conventions.

Received number of writing awards from the National Newspaper Publishers Association and the Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association.

Served on three Pulitzer Prize jury panels.

Born February 5, 1927, in Fruitland Park, Fla. (near Leesburg), in Lake County.

Married 73 years (1948) to the former Lucille Wallace (d.10-20-21) of Leesburg, Fla. Parents of four adult daughters.



1963 - AFRO CHARITIES ESTABLISHED - shown above are members of the board of directors of the recently established Afro Charities, Inc. Left to right: John H. Murphy 3rd, president; James D. Williams, Moses J. Newson, Cliff W. Mackay and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Phillips.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO *THE AFRO* FOR 130 YEARS OF DOCUMENTING HISTORIC MOMENTS IN MARYLAND'S BLACK COMMUNITY.

In a new exhibition, *Passion and Purpose: Voices of Maryland's Civil Rights Activists*, the Maryland Center for History and Culture features *The AFRO's* long history of supporting the fight for racial equality. We thank *The AFRO* for its partnership in the exhibition's creation.

Learn more at mdhistory.org/exhibitions/passion-and-purpose.



Side A Photography



« City Room of the *Afro-American Newspaper*, photograph by Paul S. Henderson (1899–1988), unknown date. Maryland Center for History and Culture, H. Furlong Baldwin Library, Paul S. Henderson Collection, HEN.00.B1-055



» Portrait of Paul Henderson with Camera (photojournalist with the *Afro-American Newspaper*), c.1920. Maryland Center for History and Culture, H. Furlong Baldwin Library, 1991.44.301

M MARYLAND CENTER FOR HISTORY AND CULTURE

• MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY •

Celebrating 130 Years of Excellence!



Congratulations

Morgan State University celebrates the *AFRO* as our most trusted news source and peerless voice of the people for 130 years. Together, our legacies are united in a shared commitment to advancing our community.

AFRO  **NEWS**
EST. 1892

THE BLACK MEDIA AUTHORITY



morgan.edu

GROWING THE FUTURE, LEADING THE WORLD™



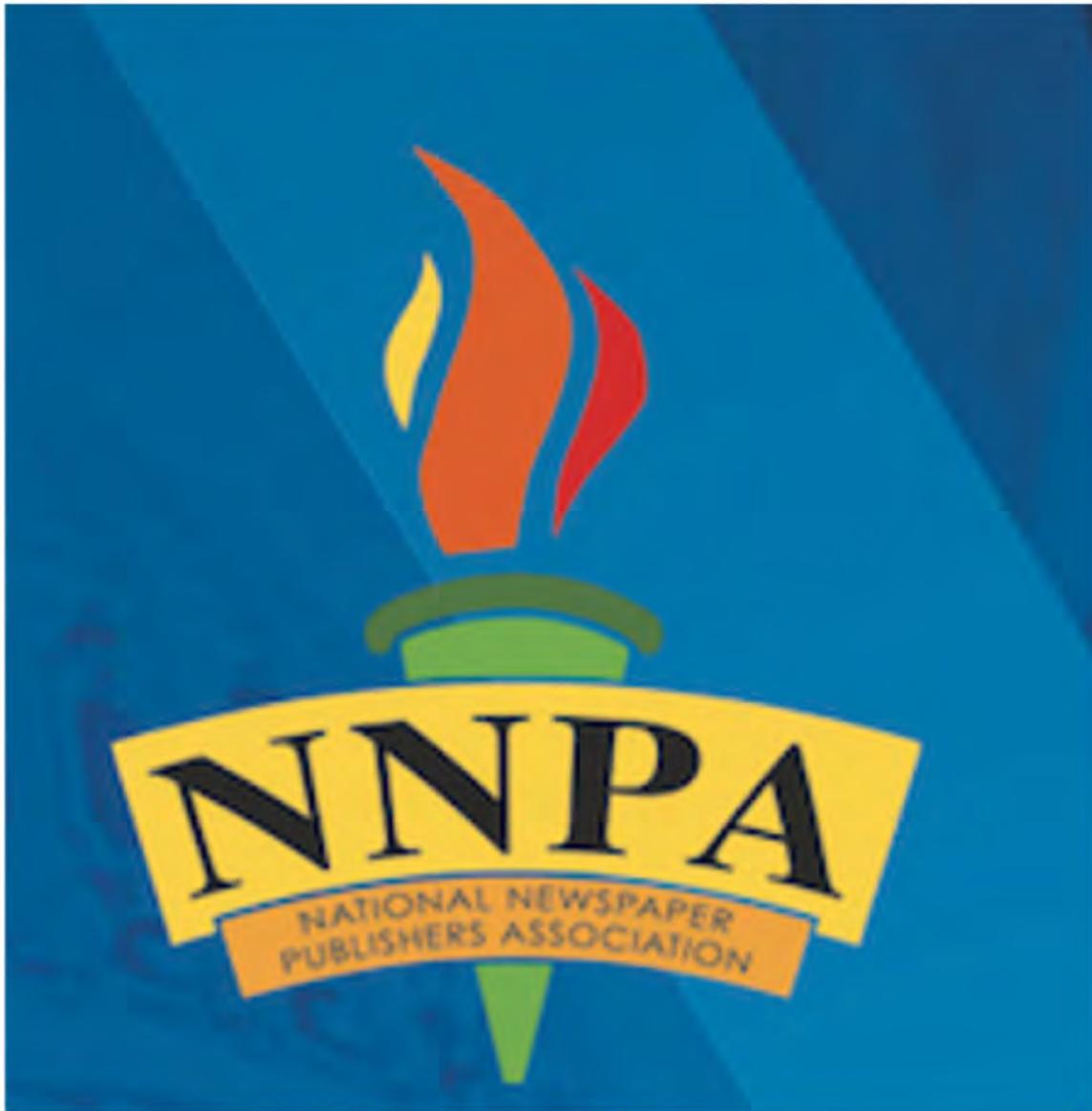
Building relationships that make a lasting difference

By celebrating diversity, we can all benefit from unique perspectives, experiences, and approaches to create positive change in our community.

Wells Fargo is proud to acknowledge The AFRO's 130th Anniversary.

wellsfargo.com/donations

**Congratulations to the
*AFRO AMERICAN NEWS***



On 130 Years of Excellent Reporting
August 13, 2022



MARCH FUNERAL HOMES • HONORED TO SERVE

CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF LIFE. LOVE. LEGACY.



SERVING
MD DC & VA

WWW.MARCHFH.COM

*Bringing
Light and
Truth for
130 Years!*



Congratulations to the
AFRO American Newspaper
on your 130th Anniversary!

Thank you for your steadfast commitment to
bringing light and truth to the community.

Your work enriches our lives
and broadens our perspectives.

Thank you!





your light
shines
here in central maryland

Exelon and BGE salutes The AFRO on your 130th Anniversary. You strengthen our communities and are making a difference in the lives of others.



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Office of the County Executive
"Prince George's Proud"



Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

August 13, 2022

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the residents of Prince George's County, it is my distinct honor and pleasure to extend greetings to The AFRO News (The AFRO), as you gather to celebrate your 130th Anniversary Gala. I applaud Chairman and Publisher, Dr. Frances "Toni" Draper and Managing Editor, Rev Dorothy Boulware. Your commitment to supporting racial equality and economic advancement for African Americans, while sharing positive and insightful stories that involve our community, is to be commended.

The AFRO has served as and continues to be an important platform for the Black community, telling our stories, celebrating our achievements, and advocating for our advancement and equality. From the days of trailblazers John and Carl Murphy, through the current leadership of Dr. Draper and Rev. Boulware, The AFRO has persevered for over a century. The AFRO is noted as the oldest African American, family-owned newspaper in the United States, reaching more than 1 million African American consumers weekly.

For over a century, you have maintained a loyal constituency because you have captured our rich history and culture, evidenced by your commitment to sharing critical archival and current information affecting our communities. The Black press is as important now as ever before, highlighting a platform in our community that offers images and stories of hope, not otherwise found.

Thanks to your efforts, the lives of many are being positively impacted and influenced by the work you have done and will continue to do to increase the narrative of justice, equality, and human rights accomplished throughout 130 years of outstanding news reporting. You have my best wishes for an enjoyable celebration and continued success.

Congratulations on this remarkable milestone. We are grateful to still have you going strong, and we look forward to many more years of The AFRO News.

Sincerely,

Angela Alsobrooks
County Executive

Wayne K. Curry Administration Building • 1301 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774
(301) 952-4131 • www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

BILL FERGUSON
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
Legislative District 46
Baltimore City



H-107 State House
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991
410-841-3600 • 301-858-3600
800-492-7122 Ext. 3600
Bill.Ferguson@senate.state.md.us

The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

August 13, 2022

Greetings:

On behalf of the Senate of Maryland, I offer sincere congratulations in celebration of AFRO News 130th Anniversary.

As you reflect, know that your commitment and dedication to provide comprehensive and justifiable weekly news to Baltimore City, and the citizens of our great state, is of value and respect. As the longest-running African American family-owned newspaper in the United States, the magnitude of leadership in gathering the expertise necessary to make this step a significant accomplishment. Because of your outreach to others and your focus to quality, AFRO News will continue to prosper in the media arena.

Thank you for your allegiance to enhance and sustain the culture of the African American ancestry. Congratulations and best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

William C. Ferguson IV
Senate President

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP
Budget and Taxation Committee
Subcommittees
Vice Chair, Capital Budget
Pensions
Chair, Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

July 20, 2022

Dear Reader,

As we commemorate this historic milestone, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the AFRO on celebrating its 130th anniversary.

Over the years, the AFRO has prevailed as a dynamic force within the field of journalism. The AFRO has maintained a reputation for its authenticity and validity—amassing millions of viewers within its readership organically. Publishing stories that speak to the community, the AFRO is the #1 newspaper publication to highlight, uplift, and update the African American community.

As a journalistic engine, the AFRO carries a rich history. Its archives encapsulate the legacies of the African Americans who've impacted the community in various ways—socially, politically, religiously, and otherwise. Breaking boundaries in journalism by amplifying the voices of Black and minority communities, this newspaper offers a platform for so many individuals—including myself. The AFRO has provided me with many opportunities to share my voice and spotlighted some of the biggest moments throughout my career. As a State Senator, I am grateful to have the privilege to connect with constituents and readers via the AFRO's op-eds and commentary pieces.

Having a publication that calls attention to critical issues affecting the community and broadcasts real news is so important and, as we celebrate 130 years of the AFRO, I commend the editors and staff for continuing in its mission to empower the community with news. I applaud the publication for expanding its capacity to communicate and reach out further to provide access through more modern mediums. It is a great responsibility to carry forth the authentic legacy of the AFRO, and we must continue to strive to do so in the times to come.

The community needs the AFRO and the AFRO is the community – kudos, thank you, and congratulations on achieving 130 years of success!

Sincerely,

Cory V. McCray
Maryland State Senator, 45th District

ANTONIO HAYES
Legislative District 40
Baltimore City
Finance Committee



Annapolis Office
James Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Room 232
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3696 • 301-858-3696
800-492-7122 Ext. 3696
Antonio.Hayes@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

August 13, 2022

Dear Frances Toni Draper
AFRO-American Newspapers
145 West Ostend Street
Suite 600
Baltimore, MD 21230

Dear Friend:

Thank you for your presence in the Baltimore community for 130 years!! While locally based, the AFRO Newspapers has been an international, national and local influencer. From the time formerly enslaved John H. Murphy, Sr. founded the AFRO, until today, our community, historically left out of mainstream reporting, has relied on your courage to report the news, share our successes and achievements. On a weekly basis, we have grown to expect you to inform, uplift and celebrate all of the good that is going on in our community.

John Murphy's determination and resolve was his legacy. The Murphy family, throughout its history, has served in some capacity at the AFRO Newspaper. The brilliant journalistic history of the Murphy family was evident in his granddaughter, Elizabeth Murphy Moss, who served as the first African-American female war correspondent.

You speak truth. You have been bold in your support of candidates that will work to serve our community. I am grateful for your support of my legislative pursuits and successes. I am proud and honored that the AFRO Newspapers will be located in the Historic Upton Mansion in my district, where the archives past, present and future will represent a collection of the vast contributions of our community. Thank you for always representing the culture. I welcome you as a neighbor and will always be your friend.

Congratulations. Please have a wonderful celebration.

With Warmest Regards,

Senator Antonio L. Hayes
40th Legislative District – MD



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Be it hereby known to all that sincerest congratulations are offered to

The AFRO

in recognition of

130 Years of continuous publication.

Established in 1892, the AFRO's proclamation to be a platform to offer images and stories of issues regarding the advancement of the Black community has not changed and remains steadfast.

Presented on this 13th day of August 2022

by Senator Mary H. Washington

of Baltimore City - Legislative District 43

SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES
Legislative District 37A
Dorchester and Wicomico Counties

SPEAKER PRO TEM

Health and Government
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800-492-7122 Ext. 3427
Fax 410-841-3780 • 301-858-3780
Sheree.Sample.Hughes@house.state.md.us

July 25, 2022

The Afro
145 W. Ostend Street
Suite 536
Baltimore, MD 21230

Please accept my sincere congratulations on reaching this milestone achievement: 130 years! Being able to withstand the challenges of print versus internet news plus the aftermath of the pandemic is not a small feat. You have endured the ebbs and flows, remaining impactful and relevant in a time when our community needs it most.

Having honest reporting that brings clarity and truth to our stories is paramount, especially now. Surviving an all-out assault on our communities while enduring a global pandemic highlighted the need for truth in reporting. The need to be first has taken a back seat to the need for real reporting. The Afro has sustained this standard and remains a beacon for others to emulate.

I appreciate the chronicling of our rich history and culture. Thank you for your dedication and perseverance of ensuring that our voices are heard, and our stories told.

Yours in Service,

Sheree Sample-Hughes, District 37
Speaker Pro Tem



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Dear Friends:

The AFRO Newspaper will celebrate 130 years of history and accomplishments on August 13th, 2022. The theme for this year's gala is "Celebrating 130 years: Culture. Legacy. Our Story."



Since its inception in 1892, The AFRO has been a strong voice in the Black community. As the oldest family-owned, continuously published Black newspaper in the country, the oldest Black-owned business (family or otherwise) in the State of MD, and the 3rd oldest (family-owned or otherwise) in the country, it offers a platform for the Black community to share stories and images of issues that affect the advancement of Blacks.

Throughout its 130 year history, The AFRO has used its influence to advocate and promote unity in the Black community. In addition, it has become a champion for exposing racial injustices in health, education, housing, and public accommodations.

On this commemorative occasion, we wish The AFRO team greater success in times to come. On behalf of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, I would like to say again congratulations on 130 years of continuous work in the Black community.

Yours in service,

Darryl Barnes

Chairman, Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, Inc.

BROOKE E. LIERMAN
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Baltimore City

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July 20, 2022

Dr. Frances Toni Draper
Chairman of the Board and Publisher
The AFRO
145 W Ostend Street Suite 536
Baltimore, MD 21230

Re: Congratulations!

Dear Dr. Draper,

I write to offer my sincere and heartfelt **congratulations** to you and your team at the AFRO as this important news institution marks its 130th Anniversary.

For 130 years, the AFRO has played an essential role in reporting on the Black community, sharing stories that would otherwise remain untold. The organization has clearly lived up to the mission that Mr. John H. Murphy Sr. shared for the newspaper before his death over a century ago - it continues to be a resolute force for justice and equity.

Over the course of its 130-year history, the AFRO has played a monumental role in American progress: advancing civil rights and condemning Jim Crow practices, advocating for equal pay of Black school teachers and state-supported higher education for African Americans, and fighting for equal representation of Black residents in government agencies and the Maryland General Assembly. The AFRO's contributions to racial equity and progress in Maryland and the broader coastal Atlantic region is essential.

I am sincerely grateful to this wonderful and impactful institution for its reporting, its leadership, and its commitment to communities in Baltimore and across the state of Maryland. We are all better for it. I look forward to seeing your work and impact continue in the years to come.

My very best,

Brooke Lierman

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR
130TH
ANNIVERSARY!

1892-2022

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CONGRATULATIONS
AFRO-American Newspapers
on Your 130th Anniversary!



Thank you to all the past and present staff of the AFRO for shining the light on our stories in the African American community locally and abroad for 130 years.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 CSB

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**Associated Black Charities
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**Your work is a vital part of
elevating and celebrating the
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**We look forward to many more
years of partnership!**



We're honored to sponsor The AFRO's 130th Anniversary Gala.

Caring for the community starts with providing support for the people who live in it. So we're proud to work with the AFRO. Together, we can inspire and build better lives and communities.



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Happy 130th Anniversary to The AFRO!

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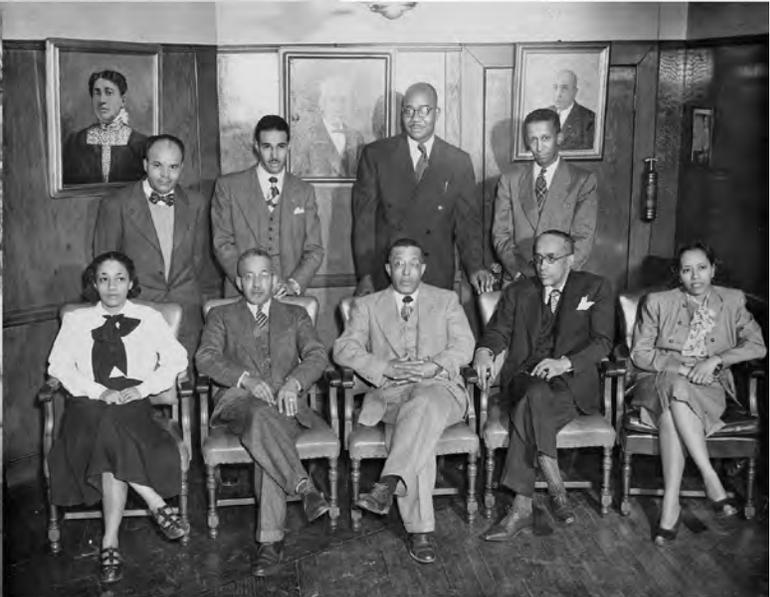
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where
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Congratulations



*The Maryland Black Caucus Foundation
is thrilled to celebrate the
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*We look forward to honoring
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The AFRO's archives continue to be a vital resource for uncovering Black artists who attended the Maryland Institute College of Art from 1891 to the present.

It's been an honor to partner with AFRO Charities Inc. Congratulations on 130 years of service to the community!

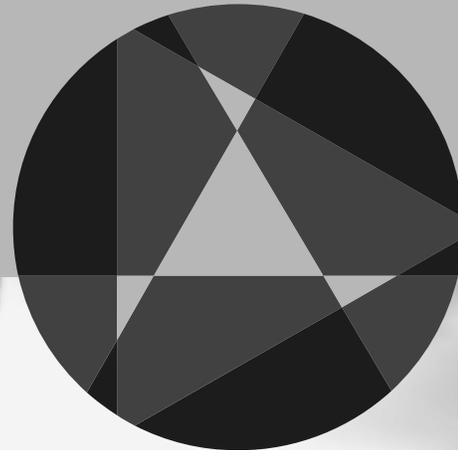
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History of Afro Charities

Afro Charities[a] has been a nonprofit partner to the AFRO American Newspapers since its founding in 1963. During the AFRO's 130 years in publication, it has not only been a news organization, but a community beacon, providing training for young journalists, job opportunities for Baltimoreans of all ages, and other services that instill pride in our neighborhoods. Two great examples of this are AFRO Clean Block[b], a neighborhood clean up initiative founded in 1934 by Frances L. Murphy, I, and Mrs. Santa, an annual gift drive that has served Baltimore-area families for more than 60 years.

To streamline these initiatives, members of the AFRO's board of directors founded Afro Charities, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization to administer these charitable programs. From 1963 through 2019, these have been Afro Charities' core programs.

Within the last three years, Afro Charities has expanded its mission to include the preservation of the AFRO American Newspapers' extensive archives, and the creation of programming inspired by the same. Since 2019,

we've launched a biannual artist commissioning program[c], an annual high school journalism fellowship and a conversation series all inspired by the collection. Additionally, we have set the ambitious goals of digitizing all 3 million of the AFRO's historic photographs, and creating a permanent home and research center for the collection.

The AFRO Archives are a treasure trove of world history told from Black perspectives. World renowned scholars have used the archives to support their research for books, dissertations and presentations. Filmmakers have used them for documentaries and TV specials. Through Afro Charities' programming, we are working to ensure that all people,[d] regardless of their scholarly backgrounds, have access to this indispensable resource.

We hope you will be part of our growth as we continue connecting our communities to their history, and find new ways to make these archives accessible to the public.

Find us at www.afrocharities.org and on Instagram @afrocharities.



Congratulations ON 130 YEARS!

To celebrate, Afro Charities teamed up with Philadelphia Printworks to produce limited-edition collectibles inspired by the AFRO Archives.

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THE HISTORY OF AFRO FOUNDER JOHN HENRY MURPHY, SR.



"A newspaper succeeds because its management believes in itself, in God, and in the present generation."

By Tashi McQueen, Report for America Corps Member, AFRO Political Writer and Kara Thompson, Maryland DC Delaware Press Association Summer Intern

John Henry Murphy, Sr. might have been born a slave- but he died a giant of the Black press. The founder of the AFRO American Newspaper was born on Dec. 25, 1840, in Baltimore.

Born to Benjamin Murphy III, a whitewasher, and Susan Colby Murphy, a housewife, his life's work would help change the trajectory of a race of people, newly freed after shedding the bonds of chattel slavery.

He enlisted in the military at age 24 during the Civil War and progressed to Sergeant by the end of the conflict. Upon returning home to Maryland in 1868, Murphy married Martha Elizabeth Howard.

Murphy was interested in the role of the church as it pertained to the education of African-American schoolchildren, and worked with the Sunday school at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. He would later become superintendent of the District Sunday School in Hagerstown, Md.

To help with instruction at the Sunday school, Murphy began to publish a school newspaper with a manual printing press, called the Sunday School Helper. In 1892, a local pastor started a rival newspaper, titled the Afro American, to promote his own church. But by the end of the year, Murphy bought the Afro American with \$200 from his wife and merged the two papers.

Together they created a platform to offer images and stories of hope to advance their community. The AFRO provided readers with good news about the Black community not otherwise found- but they also helped the community keep a pulse on political happenings that directly affected Black Americans.

Early editions of the AFRO's national edition, available in the AFRO Archives' virtual vault, show that the publication was reporting on happenings in the U.S. treasury and U.S. senate at the turn of the 20th century. Murphy kept readers updated on political fights happening not just in Maryland. In 1902 he had journalists reporting on the new Virginia Constitution. According to the Library of Virginia, which virtually displays the original 1776 Virginia constitution and every version of the document between 1831 and 1971, the 1902 edition was created during a convention of men determined "to disenfranchise African-American voters.

"The men were successful. They cut down the freedom of Black men by "imposing a poll tax and complicated registration regulations that allowed registrars to deny registration to just about any man they did not want to vote," according to the Library.

In December 1902, Murphy used the paper to keep a written record of how the Supreme Court of the United States refused to intervene on behalf of African-American voters. From Virginia to London and Paris, the AFRO kept the conversation of Black liberation going- right here from Charm City.

"Baltimore was just the center of the long civil rights movement," said Larry Peskin, History and Geography Professor at Morgan State University. "People like Murphy's and Millie Carroll Jackson- they were really central to the early civil rights movement of Baltimore.

"The AFRO was staffed mainly by unpaid family members in the beginning, but the popularity of the publication allowed Murphy to quickly expand the paper's employees to nearly 100 workers by the 1920s.

Murphy died on April 5, 1922. At the time of his death, the AFRO was the most widely circulated African American newspaper on the Atlantic Coast. It was so popular amongst Black America that Langston Hughes, academic J. Saunders Redding, artist Romare Bearden, and sports editor Sam Lacy, whose column influenced the desegregation of professional sports contributed over the years.

Today, the AFRO remains one of the oldest operating Black family-owned newspapers in the country. It is led by Murphy Sr.'s fourth- and fifth-generation descendants, and continues to "provide readers with good news about the Black community not otherwise found."



JOHN H. MURPHY, SR., SEATED CENTER, WITH HIS FIVE SONS BEGAN A LEGACY WHICH HAS LASTED 130 YEARS.

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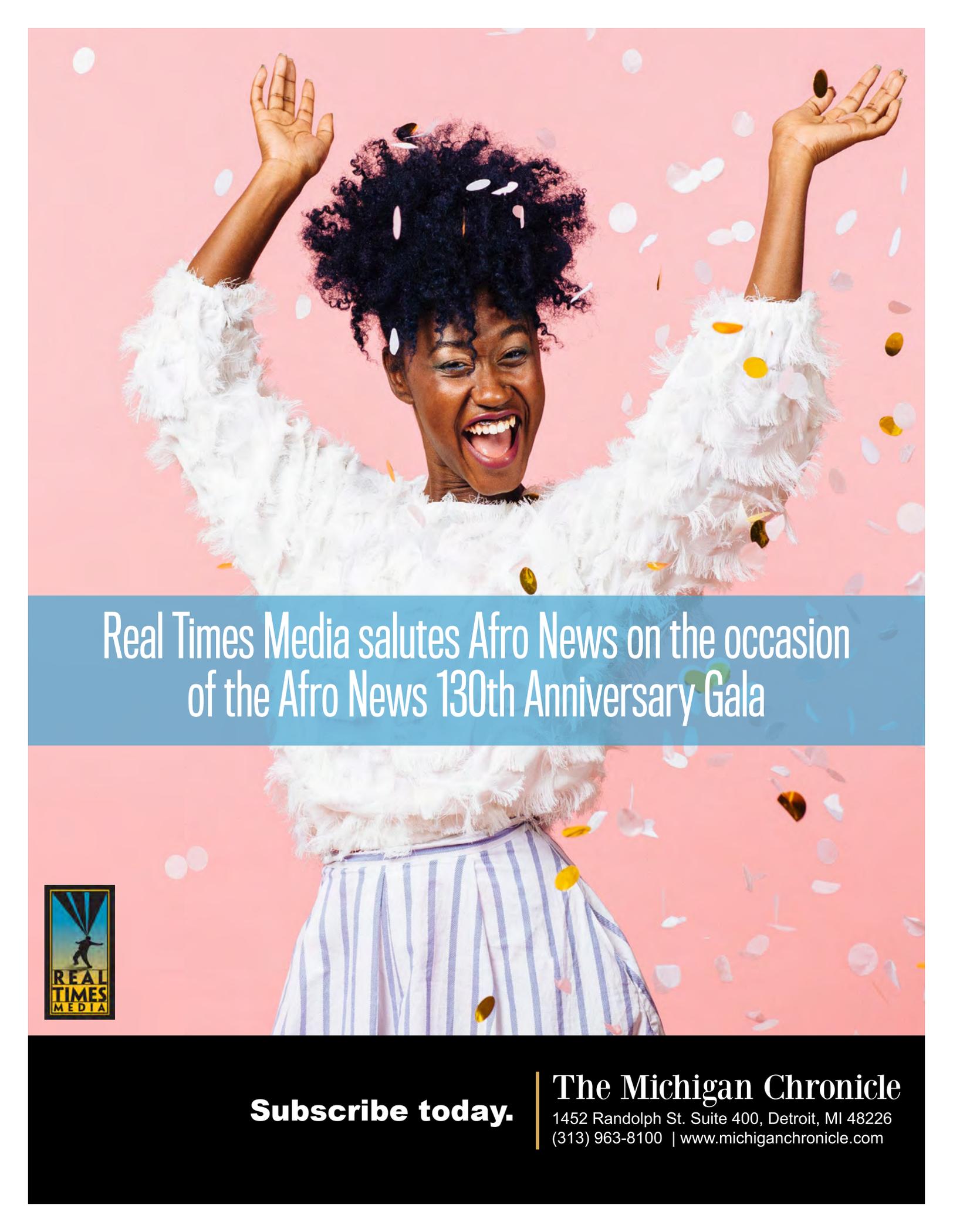
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Competing for 'Miss Beechwood Park' Title



**The Magothy River Association
congratulates the AFRO
on its 130th anniversary.**

The AFRO newspaper archive has been an invaluable resource for old photos for our

recently released
MRA video, "Memories
of Beechwood Park,"
which highlights
Black life on the
Magothy River during
segregation.



Anyone wishing to share old photos of Beechwood Park when it was an amusement park from 1943-1963, please contact Andrea Germain a3germain@gmail.com.

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The Maryland Park Service is honored to preserve, protect, and share the origin story of the AFRO at Patuxent River State Park. Congratulations on 130 years of being the most trusted voice of news and information to our community. Our Park Rangers look forward to working with your team to fulfill both your mission and ours.

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Thank you for the excellence!

All God's best!

Pastor Linwood and Dr. Karen Bethea

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10:00AM - 11:30AM EST
In person, Youtube, &
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WEDNESDAY

7:30PM - 8:30PM EST
P.A.T.H. BibleStudy
Virtual until December 31st

THURSDAY

Free Food Pantry 9am - 12pm

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Lenora Howze, Dana Peck, Kevin Peck

PR & Event Consultant

Nicole Kirby

AFRO Team

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Andre Draper

Frances Murphy Draper (Toni)

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Bank of America celebrates The AFRO for 130 years of bringing vision, leadership and culture to your readers. Your legacy enriches our community and our lives. Thank you!

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Raymond Jetson

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To learn more about these community leaders and their impact, visit aarp.org/blackcommunity