


February 9, 2019 Edition



	February 2019
	C-PAC CHAT
	<i>Caribbean Political Action Committee (C-PAC) monthly communication</i>

C-PAC CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

This year marks the 93rd celebration of Black history month in the United States. To commemorate the occasion, we will take a look at some of the contributions that Caribbean-Americans have made to the rich tapestry of this country.

The first person in our **four-part** profile is Senator Kamala Harris (Democrat). Senator Harris, who recently announced her run for president in 2020, has been a trailblazer in her political career. The product of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father, she in many ways embodies the culturally fluid, racially blended society that is second-nature in California's Bay Area, and is increasingly common across the United States.

Senator Harris was the first female District Attorney of San Francisco from 2004 to 2011. She served as the first black Attorney General of California from 2011 - 2017. In 2016, she became the 3rd woman ever to serve as a Senator in the United States. On January 21, 2019, Senator Harris announced her candidacy for President of the United States. Her campaign raised \$1.5 million in the following 24 hours, matching a record set by Senator Bernie Sanders in 2016.

Throughout her extensive career, Senator Harris, who was born in California, has been a champion for women and children - inside and outside of the courtroom. She co-founded the Coalition to End the Exploitation of Kids, and pushed for legislation to strengthen laws on the sexual exploitation of minors. And, together with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, she developed a program to help emergency rooms personnel spot and report evidence of child sexual abuse. She continuously uses her influence in creative ways to fight for those facing abuses, and to punish those who perpetuate it.

Senator Harris, whose father is Jamaican and whose mother is Indian, is married to Douglas Emhoff, an attorney. She is a proud graduate of Howard University, and a member of the Alpha Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

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CARIBBEAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (C-PAC)

1701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW • Suite 300 • Washington, DC 20006 • www.Caribbeanpac.org

February 16, 2019 Edition



	February 2019
	C-PAC CHAT
	<i>Caribbean Political Action Committee (C-PAC) monthly communication</i>

C-PAC CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Jennifer Carroll was born in Trinidadian in 1959. Her family moved to the U.S. when she was eight. She has been blazing trails for many years since her arrival on these shores. She enlisted in the Navy in 1979 and served for twenty years. She began as a jet mechanic, and retired as a Lieutenant Commander. Following her military service, Ms. Carroll - who was also a small business owner - served as the Executive Director of Florida's Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. Carroll, who also served in the Florida House of Representatives, was the first black person elected to statewide office in Florida since Reconstruction. She served in that role for over seven years. During her tenure as a legislator, she made significant contributions to the economic, environmental, infrastructural and social development of Florida. In 2011 she became the 18th Lieutenant Governor of Florida and served until 2013. She was the first Black American - and the first woman - elected to the position. In addition to her duties assisting the Governor with economic development, Ms. Carroll also oversaw the Florida Department of Military Affairs and the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs. She also served as the Chairperson of Space Florida; the Governor's Designee on the Florida Defense Support Task Force; and Chairperson of the Governor's Task Force on Citizen Safety and Protection.

Nationally, Ms. Carroll was appointed by Presidents George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush to serve in various capacities. She is currently serving on the American Battle Monuments Commission under an appointment by President Donald Trump. In her private life she is a published author, public speaker, and political analyst.

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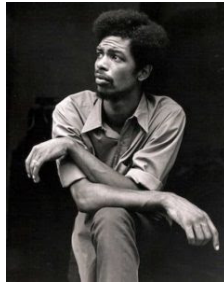
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February 22, 2019 Edition



February 2019

C-PAC CHAT

Caribbean Political Action Committee (C-PAC) monthly communication

C-PAC CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

"I've always had questions about what it meant to be a protester, to be in the minority.
Are the people who are trying to find peace, who are trying to have the
Constitution apply to everybody, are they really the radicals?
We're not protesting from the outside. We're inside." - Gil Scott-Heron

Gil Scott-Heron, who was born in Chicago, Illinois, on April 1, 1949, was a brilliant musician, poet, and author. His mother, Bobbie Scott, was an opera singer who performed with the New York Oratorio Society. His father, Gil Heron, was a Jamaican born soccer player nicknamed the "The Black Arrow." He was the first black man to play for the Celtic Football Club in Glasgow, Scotland.

While in college at Lincoln University, he met his recording partner, Brian Jackson and formed his first band, "Black & Blues." He coined the term "bluesologist" to describe himself, which he defined as "a scientist who is concerned with the origin of the blues". The band released "Small Talk at 125th and Lenox," which included a version of "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised", his most widely known and sampled work. It was widely praised for its vivid depiction of urban decay and racism in America. It was his definitive recording. It would have a tremendous, and lasting, influence over Hip Hop and popular culture.

Scott-Heron was heavily influenced by the Black Arts Movement. This was an African-American led movement. It emphasized racial pride, self-determination, and the need for cultural institutions. Other contemporaries of this movement included James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, and Chester Himes. Although Scott-Heron's life was marked by many tragedies, and a complicated family life, he felt that these situations helped fuel his creative energies.

Later in life he would succumb to the negative influences of drugs, but he continued to perform. However, he only released a single record between 1982 and 2010. Over the years, Scott-Heron's work has been heavily sampled, particularly by Hip Hop artists. He did not fully agree with this practice, but he acknowledged the value of it. Scott-Heron has been called the founder of political rap

and the First MC. He was posthumously awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 2012.

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CARIBBEAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (C-PAC)

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March 4, 2019 Edition



	February 2019
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Constance Baker Motley

Constance Baker Motley was an African American civil rights activist, lawyer, judge, and state senator. She was born in New Haven, Connecticut to immigrant parents from the island of Nevis. She was the ninth of twelve children. Her mother was a domestic worker, and her father was a chef to Yale University societies. As a child, Constance endured racism in New Haven's public-schools. The experience, and a speech by George Crawford, of the New Haven Branch of the NAACP, inspired her to become an activist, and lawyer.

After graduating high school, Mrs. Motley attended Fisk University. She later transferred to New York University where she obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1943. She then went on to receive her Bachelor of Laws in 1946 from Columbia Law School. During her time in law school, Mrs. Motley was hired by Thurgood Marshall as a law clerk. In that role, she worked on court martial cases that were filed after World War II. Upon receiving her law degree, she was the first female attorney hired by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF).

Mrs. Motley later became Associate Counsel to the LDF. In that role, she was the lead trial attorney in numerous significant civil rights cases, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, which was argued before the United States Supreme Court. In fact, she was the first woman to argue a case – *Meredith v. Fair* - before the Court. In this case, she fought and won James Meredith's effort to be the first Black student to attend the University of Mississippi. She became a key legal strategist of the civil rights movement after winning ten of her cases before the Court.

Mrs. Motley was the first African American woman to sit in the New York State Senate upon her election on February 4, 1964. On January 26, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Mrs. Motley to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. She was the first female appointed to the federal judiciary.

Catherine Baker Motley was a political pioneer for woman, and a champion of the civil rights movement. She was a "first" in many fields. She shattered the norms of the time and made a significant impact on many areas of American life. Mrs. Motley, who was married to Joel Motley, Jr., died in New York on September 28, 2005 due to congestive heart failure. She is survived by her son, Joel Wilson Motley III, who is co-chairman of Human Rights Watch, and three grandchildren.

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