



# VIRTUAL NNPA 2020 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECEPTION

## BLACK VOTES MATTER

MOBILIZING & MAXIMIZING GOTV



**The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke**  
*U.S. Congresswoman (D-NY) 9th District*



**The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee**  
*U.S. Congresswoman (D-TX) 18th District*



**The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson**  
*U.S. Congressman (D-MS) 2nd District*



**The Honorable Muriel Bowser**  
*Mayor, District of Columbia*



**Michelle Matthews-Alexander**  
*Head of Multicultural Marketing  
GM Brands, General Motors*



**Major Neill Franklin**  
*Executive Director  
Law Enforcement Action Partnership*



**Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings**  
*Professor Emerita  
Department of Curriculum & Instruction  
University of Wisconsin*

# SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

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Pfizer is proud to support patients living with rare diseases such as transthyretin amyloid cardiomyopathy, or ATTR-CM – a life-threatening, underdiagnosed disease associated with heart failure. In the U.S., the most common mutation (V122I) associated with the hereditary form of ATTR-CM is found almost exclusively in African Americans. We are dedicated to raising awareness for rare diseases, like ATTR-CM, and making an impact on the lives of patients and caregivers.



Visit [YourHeartsMessage.com](https://YourHeartsMessage.com) to learn more about ATTR-CM.

This information is intended only for residents of the United States. The health information and other information contained herein is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace discussions with a healthcare provider and other professional advisors. All decisions regarding patient care must be made with a healthcare provider, considering the unique characteristics of the patient.

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# The Most Important Factor in Your Family's Education is **YOU**



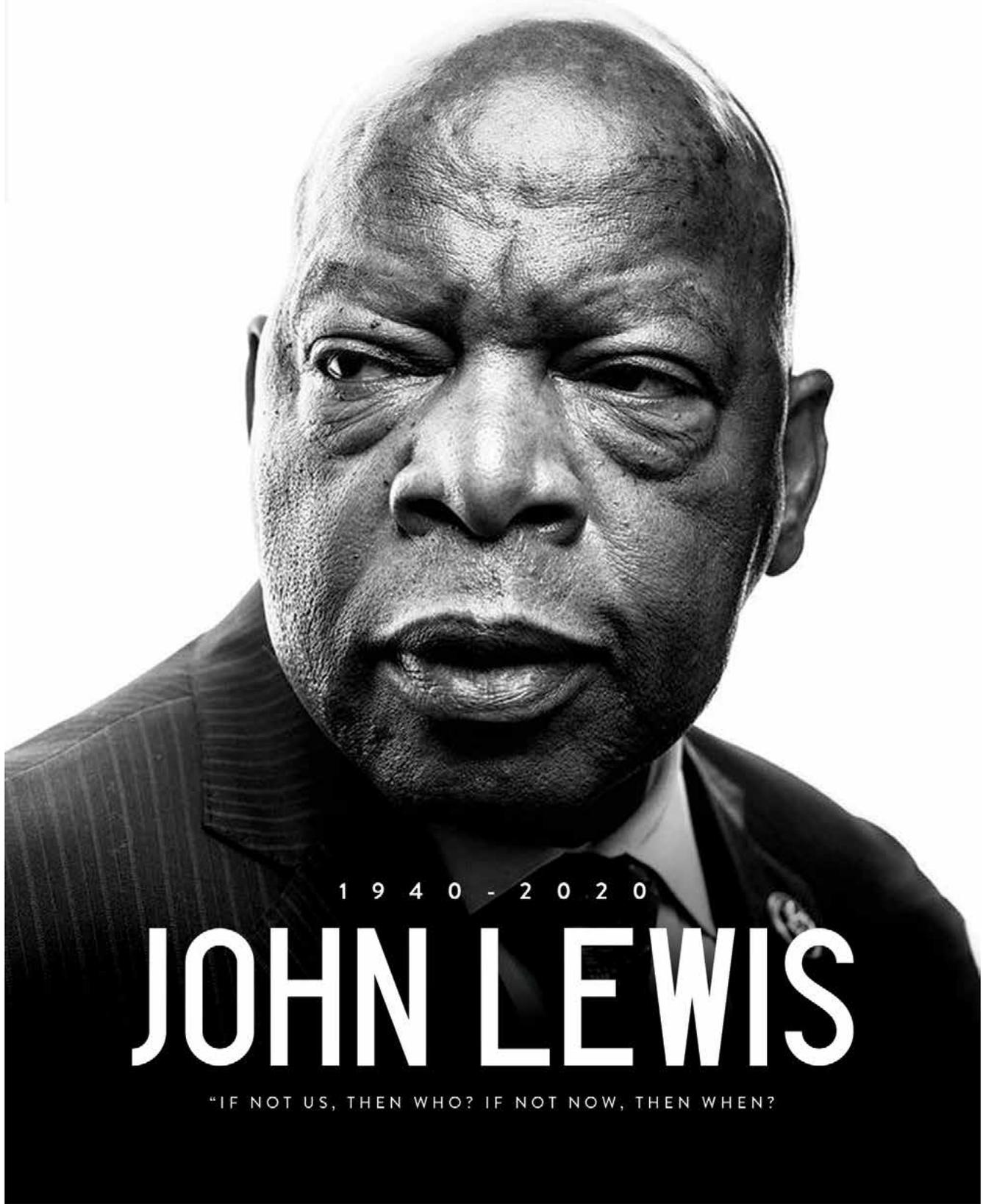
Give your family the best chance for success by supporting their education at home and school.

*Sticking to a schedule, partnering with teachers and administrators, and tapping into local resources are just a few of the ways that you can support distance learning at home and keep your family on track for educational success.*

**LEARN MORE AT [WWW.NNPA.ORG/EDUCATION](http://WWW.NNPA.ORG/EDUCATION)**

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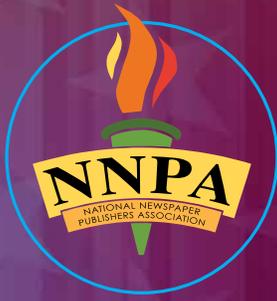




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# JOHN LEWIS

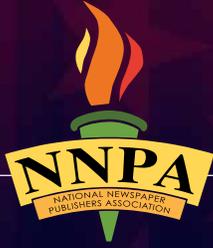
"IF NOT US, THEN WHO? IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN?"



# ABOUT THE NNPA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The 2020 NNPA National Leadership Awards Reception began in 2014 to salute and honor individuals who are national leaders in their specific fields and whose actions have helped to improve the quality of life for African Americans and others. The producers of the NNPA National Leadership Awards Reception decided that the best time to host such an awards reception would be during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF ALC) week-long schedule of events in the month of September of each year.

The CBCF ALC week is the largest annual gathering in the U.S. of 15 to 20 thousand African American leaders and influencers. The underlying joint purpose of the CBCF ALC and the NNPA National Leadership Awards Reception is to network, collaborate and strategize collectively for the advancement and empowerment of Black America.



## Karen Carter Richards

NNPA Chair

### Welcome to the NNPA 2020 National Leadership Virtual Awards Reception

Greetings NNPA Publishers, Partners, Sponsors and Guests:

I would like to welcome you to the 2020 NNPA National Leadership Virtual Awards Reception.

This is always one of the NNPA's most highly-anticipated events of the year and we are excited to honor distinguished individuals and national leaders who have shown great courage in the struggle for freedom and justice.

This year's theme is *Black Votes Matter: Mobilizing and Maximizing GOTV*. At this year's event, we are honoring those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in the Black community and who have a solid track record of supporting the Black Press of America. As our historic organization continues to celebrate its 80th Anniversary, we have had to deal with many unprecedented challenges that have impacted our overall quality of life and the way we all do business.

Amidst the prolonged and devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Black Press continues to be on the frontlines of reporting, publishing and distributing the vital news and information that our communities need to receive.

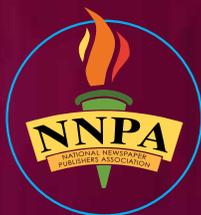
African Americans are being significantly affected by this pandemic and it is important that the Black Press continue to be a dedicated resource for them, especially as GOTV efforts are being solidified to make sure every vote is counted and that everyone is safe during this important and crucial election season.

I would like to thank our Partners and Sponsors for helping us make our National Leadership Virtual Awards Reception a huge success. We have come a long way, but we have so much more of an impact to make. We plan to do that and we are excited about it because...

We are the NNPA...The Original Black Press...The Black Press of America!

#VIRTUALNNPA2020

**Karen Carter Richards**  
NNPA Chair



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## EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

**Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. - NNPA President and CEO**



## Pluria Marshall Jr.

Chairman • NNPA Fund

### Dear NNPA Publishers, Corporate Partners, Sponsors and Guests

As chairman of the National Newspaper Publishers Association Fund, it is my pleasure to join my friends and colleagues at the 2020 National Leadership Awards Reception, being held virtually for the first time since NNPA launched the initiative in 2014.

We pause to salute our honorees this year – and others like them in past years – because they are leaders in their respective fields; people whose lives, actions and contributions have helped improve the quality of life for black people in America.

As laudable as that is, though, they represent so much more than that. They are, in effect, current-day links in a long chain of previous activists, servants, pioneers and revolutionaries who helped deliver the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.

That's why it's so important that, as we recognize our honorees, we recommit ourselves to protecting the opportunities and liberties they helped produce. In this democracy, of course, that starts with protecting and honoring our right to vote.

If black lives are ever to truly matter in America, the revolution must begin by effectively deploying the power of the black vote. And that's why our theme this year – Black Votes Matter: Mobilizing & Maximizing Get Out The Vote – is so relevant.

Our forebears lived, fought, bled and died for this precious right – largely in the hopes that one day, future generations might not only exercise it, but also wield it to create a better life for black people in America.

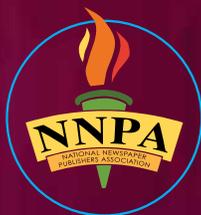
To ignore their sacrifices through apathy and inaction this November would be to discount their sacrifices and dishonor their collective legacy.

They fought to give us the power – let's get out and use it.

Sincerely,

**Pluria Marshall Jr.**

Chairman • NNPA Fund



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NNPA Executive Committee  
Publisher, The Mississippi Link



**Dirck Hargraves**  
President & CEO  
Ascendant Strategies



**Karen Carter Richards**  
NNPA Executive Committee  
Publisher, Houston Forward Times



**Sonya Ross**  
Founder & Editor in Chief, Black  
Women Unmuted



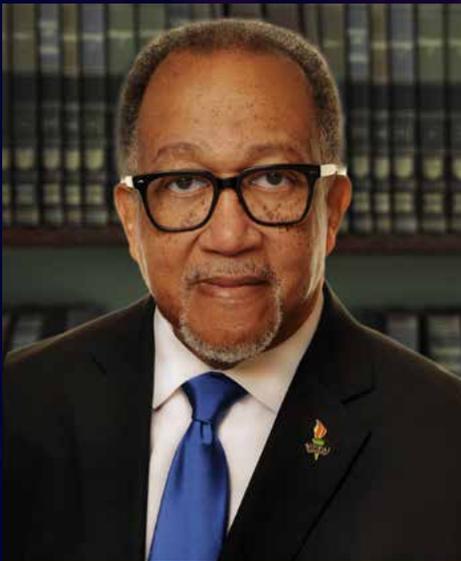
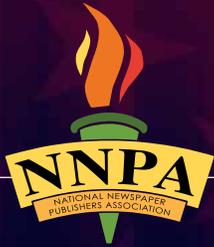
**Janis L. Ware**  
NNPA Executive Committee  
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**Trennie L. Williams**  
Region 2  
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## EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

**Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. - NNPA President and CEO**



## Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

NNPA President and CEO

### Welcome from the NNPA President and CEO

On behalf of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), we welcome you enthusiastically to our Virtual NNPA 2020 National Leadership Awards Reception. The Black Press of America is pleased that you have decided to join us as we pause to present national awards to African American leaders who have made a positive and transformative contribution to advance the cause of freedom, justice and equality.

We assemble at a crucial time in our nation's history. We have an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic and we have a prolonged epidemic of systemic racism across the nation. Yet, we are confident and reassured that together with renewed vigor, vitality, and vision, we will continue to make progress facing the challenges of today.

We note that the Black Lives Matter movement continues to grow and the role of our African American owned newspapers and media companies is a key determining factor on the future sustainability of all our movements for civil rights, human rights and racial and social justice.

Our theme is "Black Votes Matter: Mobilizing and Maximizing GOTV." The NNPA is nonpartisan. We will, however, work diligently to promote a massive voter turnout throughout the United States.

We will award seven national leaders who have made outstanding contributions for the cause of freedom and equality. The Black Press of America will continue to publish and speak truth to power. We appreciate the ongoing support of our corporate partners and sponsors. This is the 193rd anniversary of the Black Press. Since the first publication of Freedom's Journal in March of 1827, the Black Press continues to be on the front line of the movement for social change and equal justice. By God's grace, we will continue. We shall overcome.

Thank you again for your presence and support of the Black Press.

**Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.**  
NNPA President and CEO



# NNPA REGIONAL PRESIDENTS

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## REGION 5

**Reverend Dr. John Warren**

*Publisher, San Diego Voice & Viewpoint*

# PROGRAM

**7:00 PM – 7:15 PM**

## **NNPA GREETINGS**

Karen Carter Richards, NNPA Chair of the Board  
Terry Jones, NNPA Chair, Convention Committee  
Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., NNPA President and CEO

## **NNPA FRONT PAGE MEMBER NEWSPAPERS DIGITAL DISPLAY**

## **SPECIAL NNPA VIDEO TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE JOHN LEWIS (Rest In Peace and Power)**

**7:15 PM – 7:17 PM**

## **VIDEO GREETINGS AND WORDS FROM NNPA PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

**7:17 PM -- 7:55 PM**

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND VIRTUAL AWARDEE ACCEPTANCES**

### **PRESENTERS**

Karen Carter Richards, NNPA Chair of the Board  
Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., NNPA President and CEO

### **AWARDEE**

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings, Professor Emerita  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University  
of Wisconsin

## **VIDEO GREETING FROM NNPA CORPORATE PARTNER, REYNOLDS AMERICAN, INC.**

### **AWARDEE**

Major Neill Franklin, Executive Director  
Law Enforcement Action Partnership

## **VIDEO GREETING FROM NNPA CORPORATE PARTNER, GENERAL MOTORS**

### **AWARDEE**

Michelle Matthews-Alexander, Director, Multicultural  
Strategies  
General Motors

### **AWARDEE**

The Honorable Muriel E. Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

### **AWARDEE**

The Honorable Yvette Clark  
U.S. Congresswoman (D-NY) 9th District

### **AWARDEE**

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
U.S. Congressman (D-MS) 2nd District

### **AWARDEE**

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee  
U.S. Congresswoman (D-TX) 18th District

## **FINAL REMARKS AND CORPORATE PARTNER AND SPONSOR ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., NNPA President and CEO

# NNPA 2021 CONFERENCE CALENDAR

## **NNPA VIRTUAL MID-WINTER TRAINING CONFERENCE**

**January 27-29, 2021**

[www.virtualnnpa2021.com](http://www.virtualnnpa2021.com)

## **NNPA VIRTUAL BLACK PRESS WEEK**

**March 16-18, 2021**

[www.virtualnnpa2021.com](http://www.virtualnnpa2021.com)

## **NNPA 2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**June 22-26, 2021**

Sheraton New Orleans Hotel  
500 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130

## **NNPA 2020 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARDS RECEPTION**

**September 29-30, 2021**

Marriott Marquis  
901 Marriott Massachusetts  
Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001



THE HONORABLE YVETTE CLARK

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A W A R D E E

Hailing from central Brooklyn, Congresswoman Yvette Diane Clarke feels honored to represent the community that raised her. She is the proud daughter of Jamaican immigrants and takes her passion for her Caribbean heritage to Congress, where she co-chairs the Congressional Caribbean Caucus and works to foster relationships between the United States and the Caribbean Community. Clarke is Vice Chair of the powerful Energy and Commerce Committee and a member of the Homeland Security Committee. Clarke has been a member of the Congressional Black Caucus since coming to Congress in 2007 and today chairs its Immigration Task Force while acting as an active member of its Census 2020 Task Force.

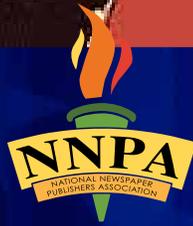
As the Representative of the Ninth Congressional District of New York, Congresswoman Clarke has dedicated herself to continuing the legacy of excellence established by the late Honorable Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman and Caribbean American elected to Congress. In the 116th Congress, Congresswoman Clarke introduced landmark legislation, which passed in the House, the Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6). This legislation would give 2.5 million Dreamers, temporary protected status and deferred enforcement departure recipients a clear pathway to citizenship.

Clarke is a leader in the tech and media policy space as co-chair of the Smart Cities Caucus and co-chair of the Multicultural Media Caucus. Congresswoman Clarke believes smart technology will make communities more sustainable, resilient and livable and works hard to ensure communities of color are not left behind while these technological advancements are made. Clarke formed the Multicultural Media Caucus to address issues related to the state of diversity and inclusion

in the media, telecom and tech industries. Clarke is one of the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls, which develops programs to support the aspirations of Black women of all ages, Congresswoman Clarke is also the co-chair of the Medicare for All Caucus where she is fighting for the right to universal health care.

Prior to being elected to the United States House of Representatives, Congresswoman Clarke served on New York's City Council, representing the 40th District. She succeeded her pioneering mother, former City Council Member Dr. Una S. T. Clarke, making them the first mother-daughter succession in the history of the City Council. She co-sponsored City Council resolutions that opposed the war in Iraq, criticized the federal USA PATRIOT Act and called for a national moratorium on the death penalty.

Congresswoman Clarke is a graduate of Oberlin College and was a recipient of the prestigious APPAM/Sloan Fellowship in Public Policy and Policy Analysis. She received the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa from the University of Technology, Jamaica and the Honorary Doctorate of Public Policy from the University of the Commonwealth Caribbean. Congresswoman Clarke currently resides in the neighborhood where she grew up, in the Flatbush neighborhood of Brooklyn.



THE HONORABLE SHEILA JACKSON LEE

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*Leadership*

A W A R D E E

VIRTUAL NNPA 2020 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

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BLACK VOTES MATTER • MAXIMIZING AND MOBILIZING GOTV

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is an influential and forceful voice in Washington. She is serving her thirteenth term as a member of the United States House of Representatives. She represents the 18th Congressional District of Texas, centered in Houston, which is the energy capital of the world. Considered by many as the “Voice of Reason”, she is dedicated to upholding the Constitutional rights of all people.

She sits on three Congressional Committees — a senior member of the House Committees on the Judiciary and Homeland Security was appointed by the leadership as a Member of the crucial Budget Committee.

In the beginning of the 116th Congress she authored, introduced and saw passage of the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. Additionally, she introduced several bills including the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Reauthorization and Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act, H.R. 71, the Federal Prison Bureau Nonviolent Offender Relief Act of 2015, and H.R. 4660, an Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015 affirming the authority of the Attorney General to reduce prison overcrowding by developing and implementing lawful policies relating to requests for executive clemency from deserving petitioners.

More recently, in January 2020, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee Introduced Legislation for a Commission to Consider Reparations Proposals for Africans Americans. “In short, the Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation to the desegregation process and the present day. The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement for slavery.”

She is the past Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Subcommittee for Maritime and Border Security wherein she co-authored HR 1417, a bipartisan bill which has been touted as the best vehicle for accomplishing comprehensive

immigration reform in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman Jackson Lee is also the past Chairwoman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection which under her leadership she passed the Transportation Security Act of 2007 which increased the funding for America’s transportation security. As Chairwoman, Congresswoman Jackson Lee supported enhanced technology, better intelligence, increased airplane cargo inspections, increased security for railroads, and implementation of the 9/11 Commission report.

She named by ‘Congressional Quarterly’ as one of the 50 most effective Members of Congress and the ‘U.S. News and World Report’ named her as one of the 10 most influential legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives. Also, the Center for Effective Lawmaking, a joint initiative between the University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University named her the 2nd most effective Democrat in Congress during the 114th Congress, the 15th most effective Democrat in Congress during the 115th Congress, and the most effective Democrat in the Texas delegation during the 115th Congress. She is a founder, member, and co-chair of the Congressional Children’s Caucus and authored and introduced H.R. 83, the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Act of 2013. She is past chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Energy Braintrust, co-chair of the Justice Reform Task Force, and a leadership appointed member of the International Helsinki Commission

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee earned a B.A. in Political Science from Yale University with honors in the first graduating class including females, followed by a J.D. from the University of Virginia Law School. She is married to Dr. Elwyn Lee who is also a Yale Graduate and an Administrator at the University of Houston. She has two children Jason Lee a graduate of Harvard University and Erica Lee a graduate of Duke University who is also a Member of the Harris County School Board in Houston, Texas. She is also the proud grandmother of two grandkids (twins), granddaughter Ellison Bennett Carter and grandson Roy Lee Carter, III.



THE HONORABLE BENNIE THOMPSON

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VIRTUAL NNPA 2020 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

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BLACK VOTES MATTER • MAXIMIZING AND MOBILIZING GOTV

Born in a state with a unique history of racial inequality, Congressman Bennie G. Thompson draws inspiration from the legacies of Medgar Evers, Fannie Lou Hamer, Aaron Henry and Henry Kirksey. The Bolton, Mississippi native considers it an honor to walk the path Mississippi civil rights icons paved decades ago.

Serving his 13th term in the United States House of Representatives, Thompson represents Mississippi's Second Congressional District where he has spent his entire life fighting to improve the lives of all people.

Congressman Bennie G. Thompson is the longest-serving African American elected official in the State of Mississippi and the lone Democrat in the Mississippi Congressional Delegation. He has served as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security since 2019, previously holding the position from 2007 to 2011. Thompson introduced and engineered passage of the most comprehensive homeland security package since September 11, 2001 – H.R. 1, the “9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007.”

Congressman Thompson serves as Permanent Chair of the 2020 Democratic National Convention. The Convention Chair presides over all official convention business.

Thompson is the first elected official from Mississippi to preside as Chair of the Democratic National Convention.

He began his grassroots political activism being a civil rights champion through the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) while a student at Tougaloo College – a private historically black college in Jackson, Mississippi. He organized voter registration drives for African Americans throughout the Mississippi Delta on behalf of the organization before graduating and following in the footsteps of his mother by becoming a schoolteacher. During his tenure educating the youth of Mississippi, a fire inside of Thompson was ignited pushing him to be a voice to the voiceless through elected office.

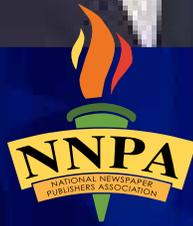
From 1969 to 1972, Thompson served as alderman of his hometown, Bolton, before serving as the city's mayor from 1973 to 1980. During his time as mayor, Thompson improved the city's infrastructure by paving roads, fixing the water and sewer systems, repairing and renovating dilapidated houses; all while spearheading the construction of city hall and re-evaluating the town's real estate.

His record of effective problem-solving and coalition building served as the bedrock for his election to the Congress in 1993, representing Mississippi's largest Congressional District composed of the state's capital city, Jackson, and the Mississippi Delta.

Congressman Thompson has channeled his passion for public service into action. In 2000, he authored legislation creating the National Center for Minority Health and Health Care Disparities which subsequently became law. After Hurricane Katrina ravaged the State of Mississippi, he aggressively advocated for disaster relief improvements within government agencies and provided oversight to ensure that federal funds were properly allocated for Gulf Coast recovery.

The Congressman has also served on the Agriculture, Budget, and Small Business Committees while working to level the playing field. Thompson employs a progressive and realistic approach to overcome persistent disparities while being the unabashed champion for civil rights, equal education and healthcare delivery in Mississippi.

Representative Thompson is a lifelong member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Bolton, Mississippi. He has been married his college sweetheart, London Johnson of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, since 1968. The couple has a daughter, BendaLonne; granddaughter, Jeanna; and grandson, Thomas Gordon. Thompson is an avid outdoorsman and enjoys gardening, reading, and listening to the blues.



THE HONORABLE MURIEL BOWSER

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VIRTUAL NNPA 2020 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

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BLACK VOTES MATTER • MAXIMIZING AND MOBILIZING GOTV

Muriel Bowser is committed to making sure every Washingtonian gets a fair shot in a growing and prosperous Washington, DC. Her administration is focused on making DC's prosperity more inclusive, advancing DC values, and building safer, stronger, and healthier neighborhoods across DC's eight wards.

Washington, DC is unique in the American political system – the mayor, DC's chief executive, functions as a governor, county executive, and mayor. Like governors, Mayor Bowser runs Medicaid, issues driver's licenses, and has tax authority. Like county executives, Mayor Bowser runs the local jail, and, unlike most mayors, also oversees the public school system. In 2020, Washington, DC is home to 705,000 people across 68 square miles, has a AAA bond rating, and an annual budget of more than \$15 billion.

On November 6, 2018, Muriel Bowser became the first woman ever re-elected as the Mayor of Washington, DC and the first mayor to earn a second term in 16 years. Since taking office, the Mayor has taken bold steps to reset DC's global and national competitiveness, speed up affordable housing production, diversify the DC economy, increase satisfaction in city services, and invest in programs and policies that allow more families to live and thrive in DC.

In the past five years, Mayor Bowser has:

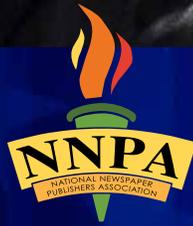
- added more than 57,000 jobs, reduced unemployment by 28 percent, and increased DC Government's annual spending with local businesses by \$200 million;
- chaired the National League of Cities Task Force on Housing, doubled the District's annual investment in affordable housing, and set a bold goal to build 36,000 new homes by 2025;
- transformed DC's homeless services system, building small, service-enriched shelters across the city and bringing chronic homelessness to a 15-year low;
- championed a wide range of family-friendly policies, including: raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour, adding more than 1,000 new child care seats, and focusing the DC Government's attention on improving maternal health outcomes;

- delivered a new stadium for DC United (Major League Soccer) and a new arena for the Mystics (WNBA) that includes a practice facility for the Wizards (NBA);
- deployed the first major city body-worn camera program;
- collaborated with leaders from C40 cities around the world to advance the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement;
- led diplomatic and economic development missions to China, Cuba, Israel, Canada, El Salvador, and Ethiopia; and
- spearheaded the 2016 voter referendum on DC statehood, with more than 86 percent of voters approving of statehood.

Prior to becoming Mayor in 2015, Bowser served as the Ward 4 Councilmember on the Council of the District of Columbia – first elected in a special election in 2007 and re-elected in 2008 and 2012. As a Councilmember, she served as the Chairwoman of the Committee on Economic Development which created more than 5,000 units of affordable housing, passed legislation to build the new soccer stadium, and secured from the federal government the best portion of the Walter Reed campus for DC. She also led her colleagues to pass comprehensive ethics reform and increased transparency in government contracting.

Mayor Bowser earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Chatham University and a Master's degree in Public Policy from American University, and received honorary doctorates from Chatham University and Trinity University. With more than 20 years of experience in local government, she first entered elected office as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in the Riggs Park neighborhood.

Mayor Bowser is recognized as a strong leader and beloved for her very public and courageous national denouncement of President's Trump's disrespectful actions towards peaceful protestors and his disdain for the Black Lives Matter cultural revolution. In a display of her support for the civil rights of protestors and the BLM movement, Mayor Bowser created the "Black Lives Matter Plaza" one block from the White House. Other cities have followed her lead.



MICHELLE ALEXANDER

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*Leadership*

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VIRTUAL NNPA 2020 NATIONAL LEADERSHIP RECEPTION

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BLACK VOTES MATTER • MAXIMIZING AND MOBILIZING GOTV

Michelle Matthews-Alexander currently serves as Head of Multicultural Marketing for General Motors.

In her current role, Michelle is responsible for leading the team that provides strategic marketing leadership and insights to drive focus and integration in support of growth for GM brands, target-ing crucial multicultural segments. In this role, she is also responsible for driving the strategic direction and providing guidance to identify marketing opportunities and develop solutions to im-prove diversity plans across all GM brands, including Chevrolet, Buick and GMC.

Michelle brings a wealth of multicultural automotive experience and spent more than seven years leading Ford and Lincoln's multicultural public relations efforts specific to the African American market for UWG prior to joining GM. Prior to that role she spent over four years head-ing up the internal communications efforts at Nissan's North American Engineering facility in Farmington Hills, MI.

Michelle graduated Magna Cum Laude from Michigan State University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism. Alexander was named one of the Michigan Chronicle's 2017 Women of Excellence Award recipients, was recognized as one of the Michigan Chronicle's "40 under 40" awards recipients in addition to receiving the 2016 Marketing to African Americans with Ex-celence (MAAX) Award. Alexander is a member of the ANA Alliance For Inclusive and Multicul-tural Marketing, an organization comprised of senior-level, client-side marketers, me-dia/publishers, research and data companies, advertising agencies and trade associations fo-cused on evolving and enhancing the effectiveness of how multicultural and inclusive marketing currently gets done. Alexander was most recently selected to attend Northwestern University's Kellogg Chief Marketing Officer Program as part of its 2020 class.



DR. GLORIA LADSON-BILLINGS

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A W A R D E E

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24

BLACK VOTES MATTER • MAXIMIZING AND MOBILIZING GOTV

Gloria Ladson-Billings is the former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and faculty affiliate in the Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She was the 2005-2006 president of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Ladson-Billings' research examines the pedagogical practices of teachers who are successful with African American students. She also investigates Critical Race Theory applications to education. She is the author of the critically acclaimed books *The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children* and *Crossing Over to Canaan: The Journey of New Teachers in Diverse Classrooms*, and numerous journal articles and book chapters. She is the former editor of the *American Educational Research Journal* and a member of several editorial boards.

Her work has won numerous scholarly awards including the H.I. Romnes Faculty Fellowship, the NAEEd/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the Palmer O. Johnson outstanding research award. During the 2003-2004 academic year, she was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. In fall of 2004, she received the George and Louise Spindler Award from the Council on Anthropology and Education for significant and ongoing contributions to the field of educational anthropology. She holds honorary degrees from Umeå University (Umeå Sweden), University of Massachusetts-Lowell, the University of Alicante (Alicante, Spain), the Erickson Institute (Chicago), and Morgan State University (Baltimore). She is a 2018 recipient of the AERA Distinguished Research Award, and she was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2018.



MAJOR NEILL FRANKLIN

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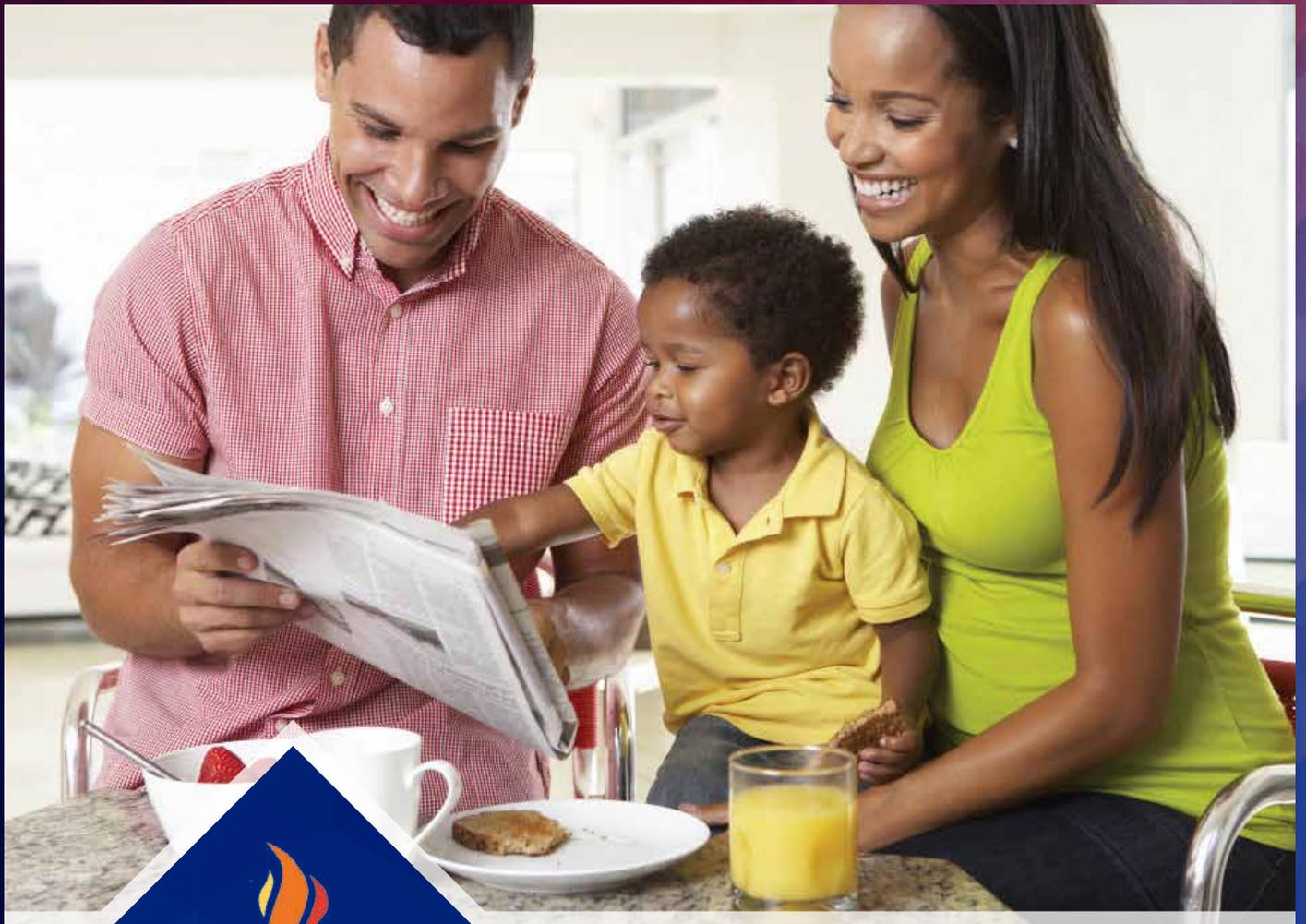
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BLACK VOTES MATTER • MAXIMIZING AND MOBILIZING GOTV

Major Neill Franklin is Executive Director of Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP). Major Franklin is a 34-year law enforcement veteran of the Maryland State Police and Baltimore Police Department. During his time on the force, he held the position of commander for the Education and Training Division and the Bureau of Drug and Criminal Enforcement. Major Franklin instituted and oversaw the very first Domestic Violence Investigative Units for the Maryland State Police. After 23 years of dedicated service to the Maryland State Police, he was recruited in 2000 by the Commissioner of the Baltimore Police Department to reconstruct and command Baltimore's Education and Training Section. While serving as a Narcotics Agent with the Maryland State Police, Major Franklin was persuaded by then then-mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, who declared that the War on Drugs was counterproductive and created excessive violence. This; followed by the tragic assassination of Major Franklin's close friend Corporal Ed Toatley while making a drug buy as an undercover agent, cemented his resolve to reform the policies referred to as the "War on Drugs". He would go on to join Law Enforcement Against Prohibition as it's Executive Director in 2010. Law Enforcement Against Prohibition evolved into the Law Enforcement Action Partnership in January 2017. When not working, Neill volunteers his time by serving on many boards of directors that include Children 1st, the Faith Based Community Council on Law Enforcement and Intelligence, the Place of Grace Church, Anne Arundel Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and board president for TurnAround, Inc. He is also very active in his church. Major Franklin is married and has one son.



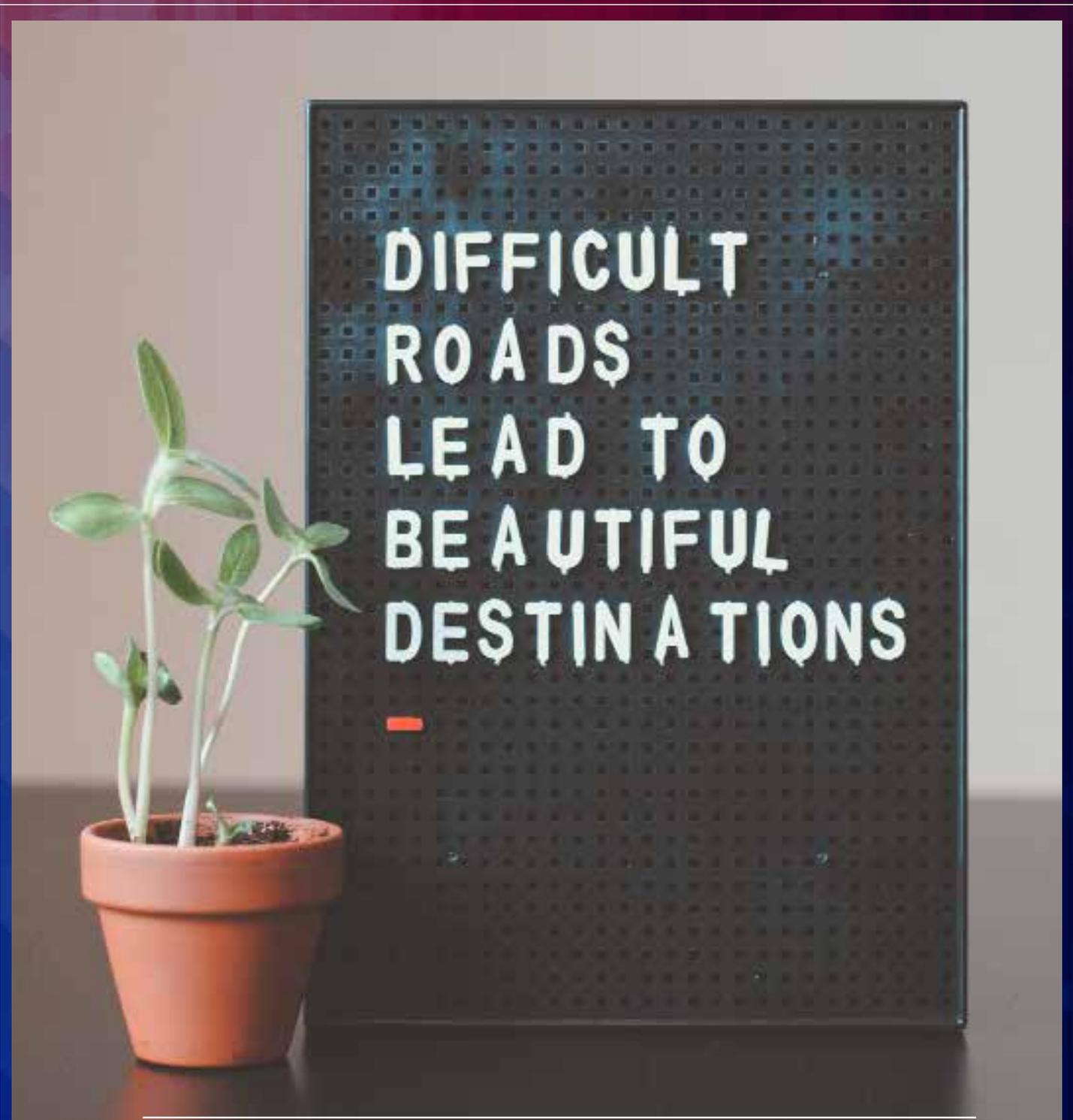
About the National Newspapers Publishers Association

## “THE **BLACK PRESS** IN AMERICA IS MORE RELEVANT THAN EVER”

NNPA is a trade association representing the Black Press with 215 African American-owned member newspapers in 40 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Since its inception, over three quarters of a century, the NNPA publishers have provided excellent reporting from the Black perspective.

Celebrating 193 years of Black Press Publishing in America

**#BlackPress193yrs**

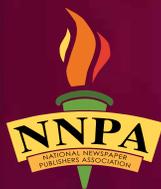


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Our design team proudly supports the  
National Newspaper Publishers Association  
in its continued endeavor to be the voice  
of our communities.





# NNPA STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

**AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (AME)**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY (AABE)**

**BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**

**BLACK NEWS CHANNEL**

**THE IMPACT NETWORK**

**MINORITY MEDIA AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL (MMTC)**

**NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK (NAN)**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP)**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK JOURNALISTS (NABJ)**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HISPANIC PUBLICATIONS (NAHP)**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION (NAFEO)**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS (NAREB)**

**NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION**

**NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL**

**RAINBOW PUSH COALITION**

**UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND (UNCF)**

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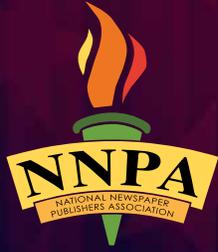
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THE BOARD CHALLENGE

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## National Newspaper Publishers Association

# 2020 Affiliated African American Owned Newspapers and Media Companies by State

### ALABAMA

Birmingham Times  
Greene County Democrat  
Mobile Beacon  
Speakin' Out News

### ARIZONA

Arizona Informant

### CALIFORNIA

Bakersfield News Observer  
Black & Magazine  
California Voice  
Compton Bulletin  
Inglewood Today  
LA Focus on The Word, Inc.  
LA Watts Times  
Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper  
Oakland Post  
Our Weekly - LA  
Our Weekly - Antelope Valley

Precinct Reporter Group  
San Francisco Bay View  
San Francisco Sun Reporter  
The California Advocate Newspaper  
The Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley and Latino Journal News  
The Sacramento Observer  
The San Bernardino American News  
The San Diego Voice & Viewpoint  
Tri-County Sentry  
Black Voice  
Los Angeles Wave - Culver City Star  
Los Angeles Wave- East Edition  
Los Angeles Wave - Herald American  
Los Angeles Wave - Los Angeles Independent  
Los Angeles Wave- Lynwood Press  
Los Angeles Wave - Northeast Edition  
Los Angeles Wave - The Press  
Los Angeles Wave - West Edition

### COLORADO

Denver Weekly News

### CONNECTICUT

The Inner-City News  
Inquiring News

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The Afro-American Newspaper (Wash DC)  
Diaspora Today Magazine  
The Washington Informer  
Walls & Associates

### FLORIDA

Capital Outlook  
Daytona Times  
Florida Courier  
Florida Sentinel Bulletin  
Jacksonville Free Press  
Orlando Advocate  
The Pensacola Voice  
South Florida Times  
The Florida Star Newspaper  
The Florida Sun  
The Miami Times  
The Orlando Times, Inc.  
Westside Gazette

## **GEORGIA**

Atlanta Daily World  
Atlanta Inquirer  
Atlanta Tribune  
The Courier Eco Latino  
CrossRoadsNews  
Macon Telegraph  
Metro Courier  
Savannah Herald  
The Albany Southwest Georgian  
The Atlanta Voice  
The Columbus Times Newspaper  
Rolling Out  
The Savannah Tribune

## **ILLINOIS**

Chicago Citizen Newspaper - Chatham-Southeast  
Chicago Citizen Newspaper - Weekend Citizen Chicago  
Citizen Newspaper - Hyde Park  
Chicago Citizen Newspaper Group - South Suburban  
Chicago Citizen Newspaper Group - South End Citizen  
Chicago Defender  
Chicago Standard  
Ebony.com  
Muslim Journal  
The Chicago Crusader  
The Final Call Newspaper  
The Windy City Word  
The Times Weekly

## **INDIANA**

Frost Illustrated  
Indiana Herald Newspaper  
Indianapolis Recorder  
The Gary Crusader

## **KENTUCKY**

Louisville Defender

## **LOUISIANA**

New Orleans Data News Weekly  
New Orleans Tribune  
The Shreveport Sun  
The Louisiana Weekly

## **MARYLAND**

The Annapolis Times

Montgomery County Sentinel  
Prince George's Sentinel  
The AFRO American Newspaper (Baltimore)  
The Baltimore Times

## **MICHIGAN**

Detroit Native Sun  
Grand Rapids Time  
Michigan Front Page  
The Telegram Ecrose  
The Michigan Chronicle

## **MINNESOTA**

Insight News  
Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder

## **MISSOURI**

East St. Louis Monitor  
Kansas City Call  
St. Louis Argus  
The Kansas City Globe  
The St. Louis American

## **MISSISSIPPI**

Jackson Advocate  
The Mississippi Link

## **NEBRASKA**

The Omaha Star

## **NEW JERSEY**

South Jersey Journal  
Jersey City Daily Challenge  
Newark Daily Challenge  
Patterson Passaic Daily Challenge

## **NEW YORK**

Afro Times  
Buffalo Criterion  
Challenger Community News  
Harlem Community News- Bronx  
Harlem Community News- Brooklyn  
Harlem Community News  
Harlem Community News - Queens  
Hudson Valley Press  
New America of New York  
New York Amsterdam News

New York Beacon  
The New York Carib News  
New York Daily Challenge  
The Westchester County Press

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Carolina Call  
Fayetteville Press  
Greater Diversity News  
The Carolina Peacemaker  
The Carolina Times  
The Carolinian  
The Charlotte Post  
The County News  
The Drum  
The Triangle Tribune  
The Wilmington Journal  
Urban News  
Winston-Salem Chronicle

### **OHIO**

Buckeye Review  
Call & Post  
City News  
Columbus Post  
Communicator News  
Dayton Defender  
The Cincinnati Herald  
The Reporter  
The Sojourner Truth  
The Toledo Journal

### **OKLAHOMA**

Oklahoma Eagle  
The Black Chronicle

### **OREGON**

The Portland Observer  
The Portland Skanner

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

New Pittsburgh Courier Philadelphia Observer  
Philadelphia Tribune

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

The Charleston Chronicle  
The Community Times Newspaper

### **TENNESSEE**

The Christian Recorder / AME Church  
Memphis Silver Star News  
The Nashville Pride  
The New Tri-State Defender  
The Tennessee Tribune

### **TEXAS**

African American News & Issues  
African News Digest  
A King Size View  
The Dallas Examiner  
Dallas Weekly  
D-Mars.com  
East Texas Review  
Garland Journal  
Houston Defender  
Houston Forward Times  
Houston Style Magazine  
I-Messenger.com  
La Vida News - The Black Voice  
NOKOA, The Observer  
North Dallas Gazette  
San Antonio Observer  
Southwest Digest  
Texas Informer  
Texas Metro News  
The Dallas Post Tribune  
The Villager Newspaper

### **VIRGINIA**

Legacy Newspaper  
New Journal & Guide  
Richmond Free Press

### **WASHINGTON**

The Metro Homemaker  
Seattle Medium  
The Tacoma True Citizen  
The Seattle Skanner

### **WISCONSIN**

Milwaukee Community Journal  
Milwaukee Courier  
The Madison Times Weekly  
The Milwaukee Times Weekly Newspaper



## **Ascension is proud to support the National Newspaper Publishers Association.**

Together, we will address health disparities by reaching minority communities with information on the need for high-quality, accessible and affordable healthcare.



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[ascension.org](https://www.ascension.org)



# TOMORROW'S PROBLEM SOLVERS:

CREATING CHANGE, POWERING PROGRESS

America's natural gas and oil industry is preparing for the future of energy by investing in a diverse, inclusive and resilient workforce. Last year, in partnership with allied industries and Discovery Education, API launched the STEM Careers Coalition, focused on bridging the workforce skills gap by empowering students and educators in K-12 U.S. schools. API is committed to providing opportunities for good-paying careers and preparing the next generation of academics, engineers and scientists to solve the world's greatest energy challenges.

To learn more, visit us at [API.org/news-policy-and-issues/american-jobs/powering-the-workforce-of-the-future](https://api.org/news-policy-and-issues/american-jobs/powering-the-workforce-of-the-future)



# Diversity & Inclusion is our foundation for innovation and drives our business forward.

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Comcast NBCUniversal is proud to support  
the National Newspaper Publishers Association's 2020 Black Press Week.



[COMCASTCORPORATION.COM/DIVERSITY](https://comcastcorporation.com/diversity)



## We welcome all backgrounds, experiences and walks of life.

We have always been a company that makes cars for everyone, and would never have been able to achieve this if we didn't also strive to be a company that includes everyone. So, that's exactly what we do; in fact, inclusion is our corporate policy.

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We're  
here to  
help

## Relearning: What Does Financial Freedom Look Like Today?

WELLS  
FARGO

The road to recovery from this crisis is full of unexpected twists, turns, and financial challenges. As you start having new questions, Wells Fargo is here to provide you with information to help you manage your finances in today's world and develop a better picture of your financial reality.

### How might consolidating my debt help lower my monthly payments?

Debt consolidation may be a good option if you're trying to pay off higher-interest loans and credit cards while managing multiple payments. Paying off debt with a new lower-interest loan and a single monthly payment may help you lower your overall monthly expenses and create more flexibility in your budget.

### How can I start to rebuild my savings?

While the effects of the ongoing health crisis may have drastically changed your budget, it is possible to get back on track. Creating and maintaining a savings plan that matches your current financial situation may be the best way to build towards the future. If you don't have 3-6 months of cash savings to fall back on now is the time to redirect your attention to creating a cushion for yourself. Start by taking a look at your expenses to determine what's necessary and what you may be able to cut back on.

### How should I approach saving for retirement in today's climate?

Saving for the future, especially retirement is a well-known best practice for building financial

stability. When developing your retirement savings plan it's best to base your investment decisions on when you'll need access to your money. Generally, it's best not to pull investments when the market is down. If you've already begun investing in a retirement account think carefully about whether or not it's the right time to withdraw from it.

### Is now a good time to invest?

During an economic downturn there are often unique opportunities for high-risk and potentially high-reward investments. If you're feeling confident about your financial picture (including your savings and debt repayment plan) and would like to take advantage of such opportunities, now might be a good time to meet with a financial advisor for guidance. However, if you are generally risk-averse, close to retirement, or have limited savings accrued, now may not be the right time to take on new investments.

Wells Fargo is eager to offer support and guidance as you continue to navigate today's new normal. To learn more about our COVID-19 relief efforts visit [wellsfargo.com/heretohelp](https://wellsfargo.com/heretohelp).

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# VOTING RIGHTS

## SINCE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT PASSED IN 1965, WE'VE NEEDED 5 AMENDMENTS TO PROTECT IT

Voting was and still is our super power. It keeps people and neighborhoods from being ignored. We celebrate the people who not only got knocked down, but who kept getting up. Join AARP as we continue the journey to protect and empower all races and ages in all communities.

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# The RAI Group salutes

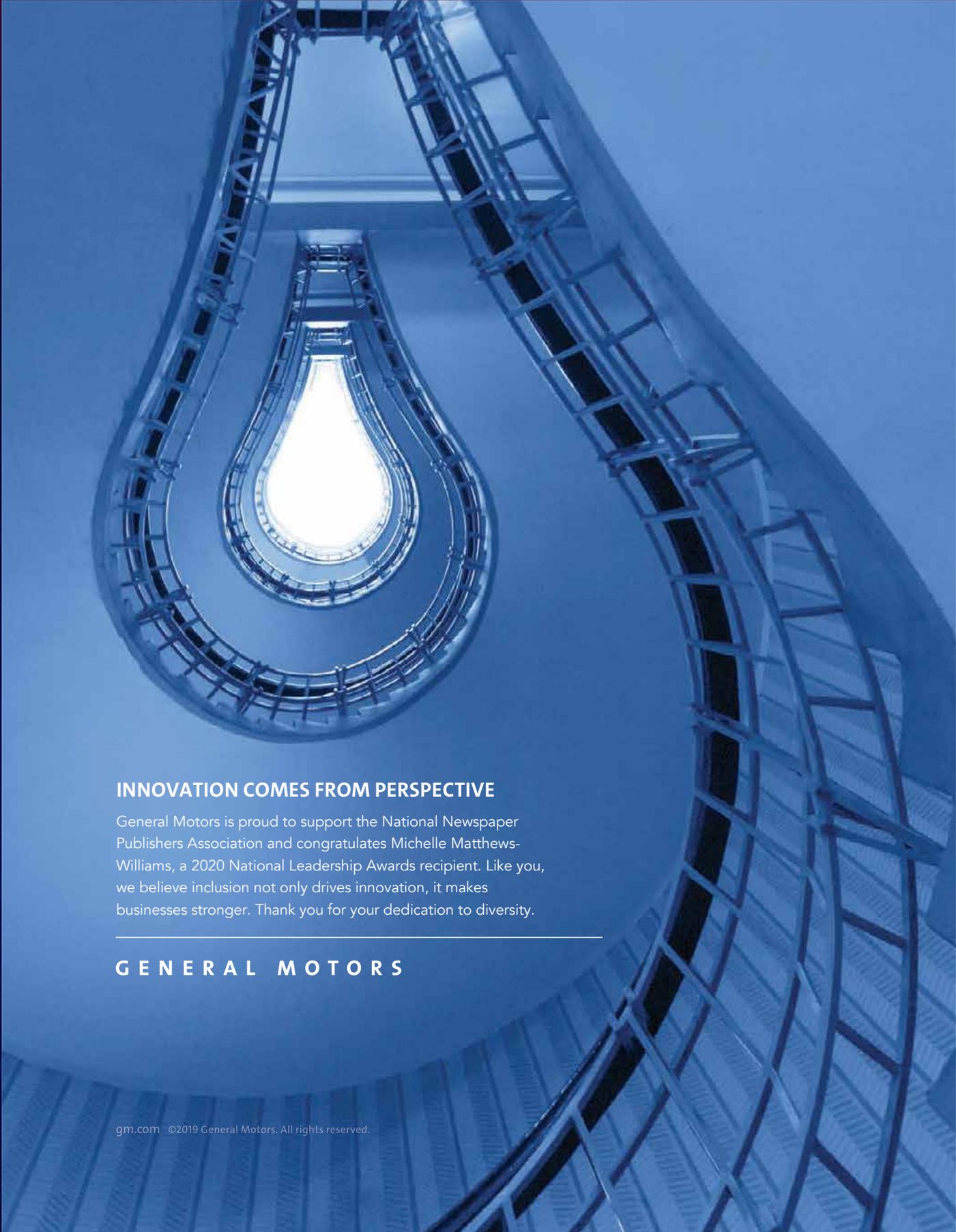
## National Newspaper Publishers Association

### Transformation & innovation

are deeply rooted in our history and our companies' long success of engaging with communities where our employees live and work. This trailblazing spirit reflects who we are – **passionate, principled people** who go the extra mile to make a difference.

We applaud those who have committed to serve others, and we value the perspectives and experiences of all those who reflect a diverse nation.





## INNOVATION COMES FROM PERSPECTIVE

General Motors is proud to support the National Newspaper Publishers Association and congratulates Michelle Matthews-Williams, a 2020 National Leadership Awards recipient. Like you, we believe inclusion not only drives innovation, it makes businesses stronger. Thank you for your dedication to diversity.

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