



Pastor Tony Lowden
Keynote Speaker



Introducing:
**2025 Dr. Terence N. Thomas
Scholarship Recipients**



Joseph Addison
Regulatory Compliance Analyst,
Derco/Lockheed Martin



Earl Arms
Media/public relations strategist
at Northwestern Mutual



Judge Carl Ashley
Chief Judge, Milwaukee County
Circuit Court



Kyle Ashley
Director of Community Outreach
for Milwaukee County



Richard Badger
Wisconsin Community Service



Rev. Christopher Boston
Lamb of God MBC



Rev. Willie Brisco
Activist/MICAH



Montreal Cain
MERA WI



Pastor Arnold Cifax
New Testament Church



Randy Crump
Prism Technical



Darryl Davidson
Milw. Fatherhood Coalition



Louis DeSilva
Breakfast Club MKE



Dr. Zeno Franco
Medical College of WI



Kenneth Ginlack
CEO/Executive Director
Serenity Inns



Dr. Sirr Grice
Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.



Rep. Kaylan Haywood
Wisconsin State
Representative



Earl Ingram
Talk Radio Personality



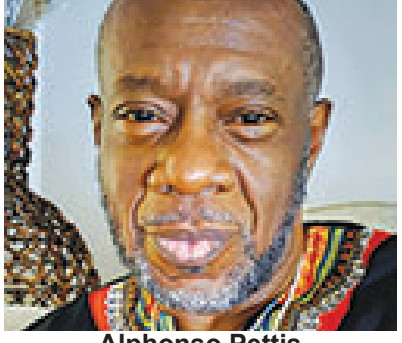
Shawn Muhammad
Asha Project



Chief Jeffrey Norman
Milwaukee Police Department



**Rep. Supreme Moore
Omokunde**
Wis. State Representative



Alphonso Pettis
Mentoring Through Sports



Dr. Ricky L. Price, Sr.
Mt. Zion Assembly
Healing Temple



Quentin Prince
Youth Sports Alliance/
Journey Hose



Brandon Ramey
Quad-MKE



LaNelle Ramey
Mentor MKE



Shannon Ross
CommUnity



Pastor Richard Shaw
St. Matthew CME



Ald. Russell Stamper, II
Milwaukee Common Council



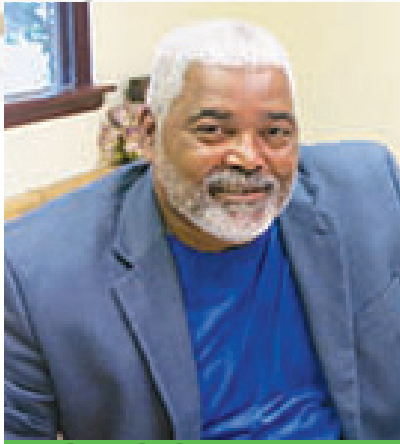
Terry Thompson
YWCA

FORTY NINE YEARS!

We Can, We Have, And We Will Continue... To feel the PULSE of Black Milwaukee!



THE BOSS:
MCJ Publisher
Patricia O'Flynn
Pattillo



**SECOND IN
COMMAND:**
Associate Publisher
Mikel Holt



**THE
EDITOR:**
Thomas E. Mitchell, Jr.



**ADVERTISING
LEADER:**
Colleen Newsom

Forty nine years! Almost half of a century.

Yes, it means many newspapers, stories, experiences, employment opportunities, and

internships.

It is people and places, politics and preferences, laws and left-behinds. It is also years of learning to pivot for a changing readership and a dominant social media audience that we lure with photographs and news they supply.

We appeal to the informed reader who wants to know what is happening in the majority Black demographic.

Thanks to our Editor and his many team players, we have retained our core-audience while attracting more of the under thirties.

Thinking back, September 1976, we just wanted to show more prisms in the kaleidoscope of Black in the city of Milwaukee.

Local and national Nightly news was not showing the things we were seeing and living everyday. Many positive things were happening and we wanted to tell those stories.

Believing that as one mounts a rung on the mobility ladder, they must make certain that someone is side by side or immediately behind them so that every achievement is followed by stronger, more assured future achievements. That remains a treasured goal today!

Thanks to our loyal readers, we've had mostly good years and we've been ever vigilant in paying our successes forward. We were crippled when Pick n Save pulled its advertising in January 2025.

We knew they were seeking a merger deal with another national food store chain to be more competitive with Walmart and Amazon; but we never expected total termination of our contract with them.

Just as we did during the COVID-19 pandemic, we didn't panic. We just pivoted and kept producing one of the best newspapers (daily or weekly; Black or White) in the country.

We continue to explore new options to provide you with the positive and not-so-positive reporting vital to your life and to remain relevant in this highly competitive marketplace.

We thank you, for you have continued to support us, read us, respond to our advertisers in print and online. We remain because you continue to say, "we need you."

We pledge, as we did 49 years ago, to be your trusted voice and source for news, information,

education and inspiration. We share the vision of freedom and prosperity.

We shall continue to accentuate the positives as we seek to advocate for the change we must have to remove the marginalizations that deter our progress and frustrate our dreams.

Our team is the best in the country. Each member brings their talents for our stability, purpose and shared mission. Founder, Publisher, and President, PATRICIA O'FLYNN PATTILLO, continues with Fiscal Chief and Operating Secretary TODD THOMAS, a team player as a toddler marching for Black butchers at the Teutonia Avenue Kohl's Food Stores.

MIKEL HOLT, our 'militant midget' and provocateur came to MCJ at its start and continues to proof read, create a nationally respected and award-winning 'Signifyin' opinion column that always informs, even as it pokes at the bears of white supremacy, racism, and political lethargy.

Mikel has been unwavering in his pursuit of better educational opportunities and outcomes for our children so they are not fodder for state's prison industrial complex.

He is either loved or hated by our readers (and educators, political figures for boldly telling the emperor he's naked. He's a '49 year man' through-and-through.

A Griot of the highest order, Mikel continues to gauge how far we've come, and how far we still have to go.

As editor, graphic designer, and reporter, THOMAS MITCHELL, JR. has done his best to keep up with the changing reader demographic and keep up with new ways of speaking truth to power.

To that end, he has used his creativity and graphic skills to produce —what we believe to be— the best looking newspaper in the state.

He has merged magazine and web design within a newspaper

format to create something that attracts attention and drives circulation. He doesn't stop until he has the best product he can produce.

The paper is loaded with news you can depend on to be accurate, to the point, and fact based. The MCJ is an independent arbiter of the issues impacting Black Milwaukee.

Ignorance and lethargy are two things we don't tolerate as a news vehicle. No publication should. Mr. Mitchell's constant vigilance guarantees that.

The life-blood of a newspaper is its sales team, and it's particularly relevant today, as some corporations have opted to ride the anti-DEI "soft" train.

When diversity is crushed, it takes a COLLEEN NEWSOM to search for advertisers that need to market their services and products to our readers.

The demographics in print versus digital are totally different in age and economic levels, yet they are cooperative collectives when the issues are the focus of reach for MCJ.

They know they can trust what we say and count on us to circulate their messages to the audience they are targeting.

MIKE MULLIS uploads the digital paper, assists with billing, and coordinates our advertising schedules.

Our small staff wears many hats, but they do so with agility and a 'can do' attitude.

We recognize that we are the change we've seen (and need to see). We desire to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. We try harder!

Our accountant, JENEEN JACKSON is a hawk in reminding our advertisers to 'pay, please.' She has helped us to sharpen our consistency when it comes to billing. Everyone loves a WINNER. Thanks Jeneen.

PATRICIA WILLIAMS also known as the 'pie lady,' assists
(continued on page 3)

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

WEEKEND EDITION

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Todd A. Thomas, Associate Publisher, Vice President	Patricia Williams, Publisher's Assistant
Mikel Holt, Founding Editor, Associate Publisher	Yvonne Kemp, lead photographer
Marketing: "Healthy Start" Magazine	Kim Robinson, photographer
Thomas Mitchell, Jr. Editor/Graphic Design-Layout	Pat Robinson, photographer
Colleen Newsom, Advertising Leader; classified, legal notices	Bill Tennesen, photographer
Mike Mullis, Advertising Coord./	Joshua Thomas, MKE Monday and Video-vantage
	LaShawanda Wilkins, MKE Monday/freelance

Certified Official Newspaper of the State of Wisconsin
Creators of
Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.
drtntscholarshipfund.org.
"Milwaukee Black Legacy Families," retail site.



Member of the National Newspaper Publisher's Association



**Committee Director
Larry Waters**

(continued from page 2)

the publisher. A friendship of over 50 plus years led to Patricia 'helping' the publisher when her husband Dr. Roland Pattillo became ill. She's continued to help her after his passing.

ALAN DAVIS took over the circulation of the newspaper after Associate Publisher, Robert Thomas, became ill.

Alan was trained by Mr. Thomas to service retail outlets and make certain the papers are in place, on time, at EVERY outlet.

You can also drop by our offices and ask for an extra copy should you want to share the news with family.

YVONNE KEMP, groomed by her brother, the late HARRY KEMP, loves to get the photographs and also the history, the names, their affiliations and influence of her subjects. She is a Milwaukee influencer.

KIM ROBINSON, a retired Milwaukee Police Officer, gets the sports, weddings, city hall events that rounds out our roster of weekly events.

BILL TENNESSEN completes the coverage in photojournalism. Bill is known for his sports photos—especially of Milwaukee Bucks and Marquette University Golden Eagle basketball games—and events happening in our community.

He was recently honored by



**Profiles Author
Kathy Gaillard**



**MCJ Photographer
Yvonne Kemp**

Marquette—his alma mater—for his photography, especially as it relates to the annual Juneteenth celebration.

Hollywood...our handyman, mechanical giant, brilliant restorer, completes the regular team.

Thanks HOLLYWOOD.

Second generation grands are contributors for Gen-Xers and Z's. Social media fluent, they are teaching us AI and Gfat, and other digital platforms that help us reach new readers. Watch for new approaches coming soon.

As we reflect upon MCJ's 49 years, so many legends come to mind.

Many gave their talents to see this newspaper reach this tenure of relevancy and advocacy. We remember them in peace and prayer.

On Sunday, August 3, some of



**Event Consultant,
BEVERLY BENSON KERN**



**MCJ Photographer
Kim Robinson**



**Assistant to the Pub.
Patricia Williams**

Black Milwaukee's ELDERS will be recognized at the Italian Community Center for their contributions. They include:

*DR. WILLIAM FINLAYSON (presented by his son Reggie Finlayson)

*DR. REUBEN HARPOLE



**Scholarship Coor.
Mike Mullis**



**MCJ Photographer
Bill Tennesen**



**Associate Publisher
Speech**

CLAYBORN BENSON
TYRONE DUMAS
LAMARR FRANKLIN
DR. HOWARD FULLER
RALPH HOLMON
FR. ALD. BEN JOHNSON
JIM MILNER
FR. MAYOR MARVIN PRATT



**Consultant
Rewa Durham**



**Raffle/Silent Auction
Sodie Rivera**



**MBM Graphic Designer
Jamila Benson**

MACK WEDDLE
There were those who did it for us. We continue to do it for them! Forty nine years! WE ARE YOUR VOICE! MAY WE ALL CONTINUE TO STRIVE, THRIVE, AND GROW!

MASTER OF CEREMONY



**Gideon Verdin
TMJ4 Reporter**

Gideon Verdin is TMJ4's Northern Milwaukee County Reporter.

Gideon's passion for Milwaukee runs deep. Since 2012, he's worked on the city's biggest stories as a TMJ4 editor and photojournalist, earning him the nickname "unofficial Mayor."

He has a knack for finding unique voices and shining a light on untold narratives within the community.

Before entering the news world, Gideon empowered

young people by teaching video production at Strive Media Institute and True Skool, a non-profit organization.

He also honed his writing skills as a contributor to Ya Heard Magazine, a national music and arts publication.

Gideon's dedication to empowering the next generation continues through his mentorship efforts.

A proud alumnus of UW-Whitewater and Riverside University High School, Gideon finds balance outside of work with his love for DJing, fishing, spending time with his daughter Zeniya Verdin-Williams, and exploring the city by canoe and e-bike.

His dream is to spend a year traveling and attending all the big music festivals across the globe.

If you have a story idea, contact Gideon at Gideon.Verdin@tmj4.com

Saluting Our Elders 2025



Dr. Reuben Harpole



LaMarr Franklin



**Educator
Dr. Howard Fuller**



**Ret. Exec.
Ralph Holmon**



**Dr. William Finlayson
(represented by son Reggie Finlayson)**



**Former Ald.
Ben Johnson**



**Former Mayor
Marvin Pratt**



**Ret. Exec.
Mack Weddle**



**Ret. Principal
Tyrone Dumas**



**WBHSM Founder
Dr. Clayborn Benson**



**Exec./Pres.
Jim Milner**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Tony Lowden

The keynote speaker for this year's anniversary brunch is in keeping with its theme: 'Men Building Men,' Pastor Tony Lowden, president/CEO of Jabez Ministries in Byron, Georgia.

Lowden has dedicated his life to faith, justice, and community impact. As the lead pastor and founder of Jabez Ministries, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including Pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, GA—where former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter were members.

His commitment to service extends to his work as a chaplain for the Secret Service in Southwest Georgia and his 2020 appointment as Executive Director of the Federal Interagency Council on Crime Prevention and Improving Reentry.

He has also been a champion for at-risk youth as the founder of STONE Academy and served as Director of the Faith and Justice Initiative for Georgia's Governor's Office.

Recently, Lowden's incredible journey and his three-decade spiritual bond with President Carter were captured in 'The President's Pastor,' a compelling documentary that recorded just six months before President Carter's passing, providing a rare glimpse into the

faith that shaped a president's vision for humanity.

Born and raised in North Philadelphia in a single-parent home, Lowden understands the plight of poverty and illiteracy.

He double majored in Economics and Government at the University of Southern California while on an athletic scholarship and earned his Master's of Divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lowden became the first African American pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in 2021, which included the former U.S. President.

Lowden learned he'd be the new interim pastor in a missed call turned voicemail from the church's most famous member, President Carter.

In the voicemail from the 39th United States President, Carter can be heard saying, "Tony, this is Jimmy Carter. I just wanted to tell you how much we appreciated you coming yesterday, and we highly enjoyed you."

In that same voicemail, President Carter asked Lowden to become the interim pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church.

Lowden recalls the moment as pure shock.

Reflecting on the president after he announced he was entering hospice in 2023, Lowden said Carter became an American father figure. "He ministered to me more than I ministered to him."



Pastor Tony Lowden

Associated Bank
Congratulations
 to the
Milwaukee Community Journal
 for **49** years of service
 and for being
the pulse of the community!
We commend and applaud you
for this valuable service!

"Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures."

- Psalm 119:90 (NIV) -

Congratulations

MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

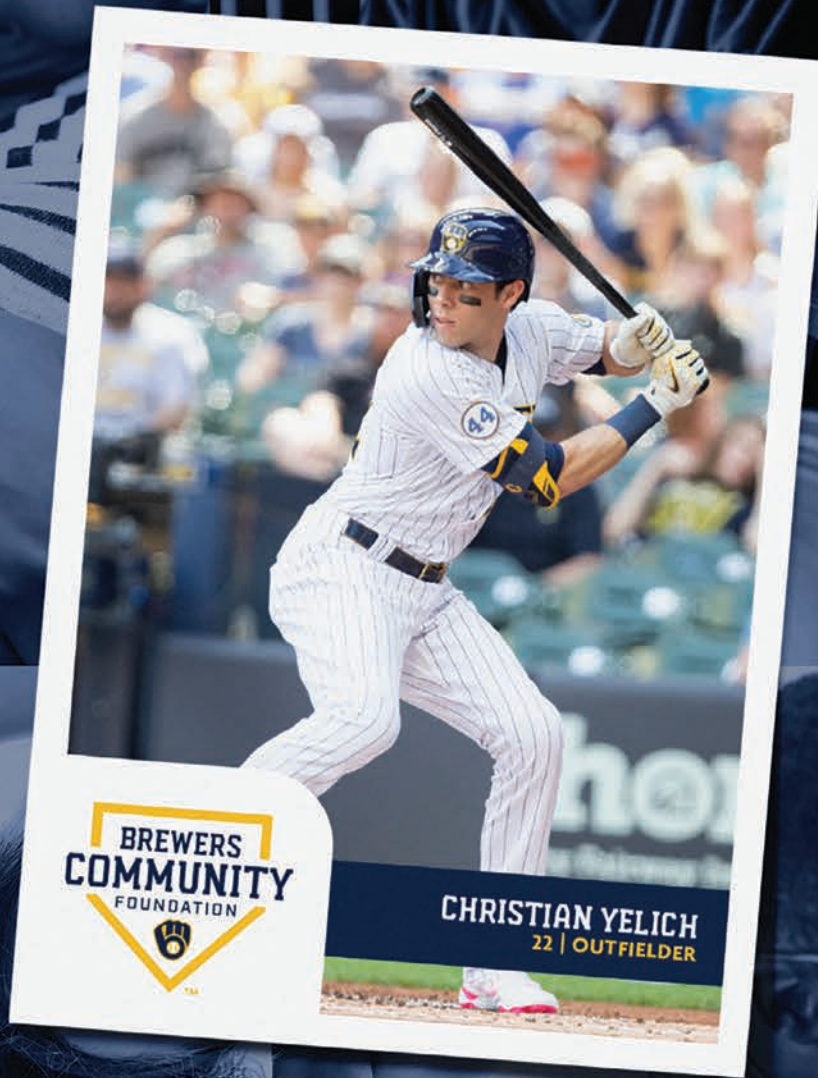
ON YOUR

49TH SCHOLARSHIP ANNIVERSARY



Northwest Funeral Chapel

O'BEE, FORD & FRAZIER



WE'RE NOT THE ONLY TEAM OUR PLAYERS PLAY FOR.

Each year, the Brewers' players, coaches and entire organization contribute millions of dollars to hundreds of Wisconsin nonprofits – improving the health, education, recreational opportunities and overall well-being of children and families in our communities. Please join us in going to bat for these worthwhile causes. Because creating a happier, healthier environment for all is definitely a team effort.



HEALTH



RECREATION



EDUCATION



BASIC NEEDS



brewers.com/bcf

HONOREES

Joseph Addison



learning because knowledge is something that can't be taken from you. I not only heard this, but my mother modeled the importance of education when she returned to school to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees," said Addison.

Addison also learned the values of patience and perseverance by fishing, a skill passed down from his aunt and uncle, Willie and Charlie Mae Steen. He developed a strong mechanical aptitude thanks to the guidance of his Uncle Liston Salter III, who introduced him to the world of hands-on problem solving.

"I find myself walking into many rooms and being the only person and youngest that looks like me. I have the confidence to speak with authority to get my voice heard among the typical white male figures in the room.

"People start listening just because I speak with authority and I've done my homework," he said.

"Being a man is hard—but especially being a Black man. Nobody asks how we are doing. And even if they do, we don't know how to respond. It starts as a kid when we're told to "stop crying and man up."

While he didn't necessarily appreciate it then, these days Joseph Addison realizes how blessed he was to be surrounded, loved and encouraged by his village as a young man. It's that tough love and support that helped him land in a space where oftentimes he is the only person of color.

Addison is working to change that. As a Regulatory Compliance Analyst with Derco, A Lockheed Martin Company, he has climbed the ladder in the field of aviation. And, as President of 100 Black Men of Milwaukee, Inc.

Addison is also paying it forward by mentoring young boys.

"Growing up in Pensacola, Florida (and in the South, in general), education was always emphasized. I grew up hearing that no matter what you do, you never stop

Judge Carl Ashley



Judge in 2023 by the Wisconsin Supreme Court. While climbing the legal ladder, Chief Judge Ashley said that one person in particular has always been steadfast in supporting and encouraging him—and has been his "voice of reason." "My wife, Felita Daniels Ashley, has always been there for me. She's my soulmate. She's always been there to help me understand things and keep me focused," said Chief Judge Ashley.

Things that impact our children's ability to be successful should be prioritized, and yet we are surprised when our youth are out doing things in the community that are a public danger but we haven't given them the tools to succeed. We cannot incarcerate our way out of the problems facing our community," he said.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Chief Judge Carl Ashley's parents stressed the importance of education and academic excellence. Getting good grades was not only encouraged but expected—and Judge Ashley did not disappoint. Life was not always a bed of roses for the close-knit Ashley household. Upon graduating from law school, he worked as a public defender for nine years and, for a time, had a solo law practice. In 1999, he was elected as a Milwaukee County Judge and, after 24 years on the bench, he was appointed Chief

Richard Badger



attended his funeral to show their reverence for him. Since I carry his name, I try to make sure I do right in life because of him and his legacy," he said.

Badger is also open about his own battle with prostate cancer. "In 2016, at the age of 43, I was diagnosed with cancer. One of the most consistent things I do now is ask men about their health. As Black men, we don't talk or initiate that conversation about our health and the importance of getting annual physicals.

"That's how my cancer was detected. So many cancers can be treated or eliminated if they are detected early," said Badger.

One bit of advice Badger gives to other men is that information is power.

"Share any information you have once you have it. Once you have that power, you can empower others," he said.

One of Badger's goals is to honor and live up to his family's legacy.

"As a kid, I never fully appreciated my name. I was named after both my grandfathers. My maternal grandfather was Rev. Martin Childs, Sr. At his funeral, so many people spoke so highly of him, but I never fully appreciated it until I was older. I was 12 or 13 when he passed from cancer.

"It was amazing to see all the people who



Earl Arms, a media and public relations strategist at Northwestern Mutual knew early on that he wanted a career in sports in some capacity. Growing up in Milwaukee, the John Marshall High School graduate was always active in sports.

Arms grew up in single parent household, along with his sister, but his dad was active in his life.

He credits his extended family and support system for giving him a well-rounded and loving upbringing, where education was always encouraged as a pathway to success.

"As I got older, I understood the sacrifices that my mother, Jonette Arms, made to ensure my sister and I had the quality of life we experienced.

"Her guidance and how she stressed the



Kyle Ashley, Director of Community Outreach for Milwaukee County, comes from a long line of relatives who have dedicated their lives to public service. His mother served in the U.S. Army and retired from the City of Milwaukee, his sister is a circuit court judge, and his uncle is Chief Judge Carl Ashley.

Growing up in a household of servant leaders who lived out their Roman Catholic faith, Ashley was an altar boy and attended Catholic schools all his life, graduating from Marquette University High School.

"My father is the hardest worker I know. He worked third shift all his life but always found time to cook dinner, be present and support our family. I watched how my parents supported each other.

Earl Arms

importance of getting good grades and succeeding academically were important. She shielded us from some of the challenges and wrong doings of the world. Her efforts are not lost on me and, as I get older, I become more and more appreciative of her guidance," said Arms.

When Arms transitioned from sports reporting to news, some people were surprised at that move.

"People put you in a box when you do sports reporting; they think that's all you are able to do.

"They try to limit you. A big part of my career transition from sports has been in ways that are intentional. I've proven to people that I'm more than a sports guy and have been able to go into different spaces and show that I'm more well-rounded than that. For example, I love Black history.

"I also know journalism in and out. I actively studied and didn't just watch sports. I've always been an avid reader, keeping up with the news, gaining an understanding how society operates, and using those experiences to have success in all other areas of my professional career."

Kyle Ashley

"One of my proudest moments as a kid was watching my Uncle Carl being sworn in as a circuit court judge. My younger sister became an attorney and is now a judge, but I was different. I lacked the direction and focus that the rest of my family had," Ashley admits.

And, while he calls himself the 'black sheep' of the family, Ashley appears to be continuing the family legacy of service as he carves out his own niche.

For example, one of his favorite things to do is visit the Vel Phillips Juvenile Justice Facility to conversate with the youth. Ashley said that he does not turn down opportunities to talk to young people—especially young men.

"I was that person, plus I learn from others. I've lost a couple of people to suicide, so we need to do more to ring the bell about mental health. Life is hard.

"I very much want my legacy to embody giving without expectations. I try to avoid being transactional and just be of service. I want people to know that if they need something and I have it, they can get it, or I will connect them with resources to help," said Ashley.

Rev. Christopher Boston



came from the south in search of better lives for themselves and their families. They worked brutal jobs, but never complained, and rarely missed work. Most of us never knew the conditions under which they worked. Through it all, they managed to thrive and raised their families.

Pastor Boston recalls sage advice from friends through the years.

"First, trust your gift. A long time ago a friend told me there's a fine line between turning your profession into an obsession. In other words, you have to back away a little bit to get perspective to lead ahead.

"Secondly, several people in my life have told me not to feel like I have to accomplish so much by a certain age. They reminded me that if you stay faithful, you'll see the reward," he said.

Rev. Christopher Boston recalls that his family and extended family served as examples in both their devotion to God and dedication in life.

His father, from Mississippi, was a foundry worker and his mother, born in Milwaukee, climbed the corporate ladder to become the first African American Postmaster of Racine.

"My father was one of the many men who



Rev. Willie Brisco

nessed and experienced several incidences of overt and covert racism. Ultimately absorbing everything that he could, he made a commitment to himself that those racist encounters would no longer embarrass him, and that he would take a stand against racism and injustice.

During his tenure at the HOC, Rev. Brisco said that he was always going to bat for other employees, as well as some of the inmates. He said one of his greatest challenges has been accepting the fact that he has influence and can make a difference.

“I still haven’t overcome those feelings, but with faith in God and belief, I’ve learned to press forward, with God as my guide,” said Rev. Brisco.

Rev. Brisco said the best advice he can give to other men is “wherever you are, whatever you do, you have an obligation to pour into another man in order to defeat what comes against us as a people—a friend, brother, acquaintance or church member.”

Rev. Willie Brisco acknowledges that the life he envisioned for himself is not the life he has lived. With dreams of becoming a journalist or author of some of the greatest books ever written, he ended up exchanging a writing pen to become an advocate for social justice.

“After my mother ‘rescued’ us from the South in search of a better life and educational opportunities, I quickly realized that I had an interest in and duty to promote social justice for my people. On every level, I began to understand how different we (African Americans) were and how we were treated differently and unequally,” said Rev. Brisco.

After graduating from North Division High School, Rev. Brisco attended the University of WI-Madison. Along the way, he wit-



Pastor Arnold Cifax

of eight siblings, and here’s an interesting fact—my dad was 74 years old when I was born. I never knew we were poor until I was older because we had all the necessities of life. After my father passed, my mom brought us up well,” he said.

“Initially I wanted to become an engineer. That changed when I gave my life to Christ. When that happened, I had a passion to help people know Jesus Christ. My drive was meeting people where they were, so I got involved in Prison Ministry for a time. In all of that, my desire and my prayer was to become a pastor.

Pastor Cifax said that the man he most admires is Pastor Julius R. Malone, Senior Pastor of New Testament Church.

“He is truly a man of integrity. He has been consistent in every aspect—from the pulpit to his work. His styling and his teaching are consistent. He has been a good model/mentor for me and I’ve been under his tutelage for many years.

Growing up in the notorious Altgeld Gardens Housing projects on Chicago’s south side, after Pastor Arnold Cifax’s dad passed when he was only four years old, he lacked the guidance of a father figure in the home but vividly recalls a conversation he had with an elder that changed the trajectory of his life.

“Mr. Jones always took time to talk to me about life. As a young man, I recall him asking, “Don’t you want to do something more constructive with your life?” That was impactful. It caused me to reflect on my life and led me to do a lot more positive things.

“My dad, John Victor Cifax, worked on the railroad all his life. And, at one point, he was a Golden Glove boxer. I was the youngest



Darryl Davidson

man—and a leader in the community—we have a duty and commitment to help others,” he said.

After graduating from Howard University with a degree in biology, one might think that serving as Director of the Milwaukee Fatherhood Coalition (MFC) is a departure from his course of study, but Davidson disagrees.

“A father’s influence on child development is part of biology. In fact, we offer a fatherhood course on nature versus nurturing.

“It affirms what is genetically passed down and how established relationships regarding foundational well-being is important to a child’s development.

“Studies show that when there is a commitment to fatherhood before the child is born, there are more positive outcomes,” he said. a part of making the change for the better,”

Darryl Davidson’s father was in the Air Force, but in addition to service to his country, he noticed and admired all the men in his life who always seemed to go above and beyond to take care of their families and serve the community.

“My father and grandparents on both sides modeled fatherhood to me early on.

“The men in my life didn’t just provide me with great examples of what it’s like to be a man, raise and take care your family, but they helped me understand that, as a



Montréal Cain

have become clearer.

“MERA stands for monitor, engage, recommend and advocate. It’s an ecosystem that I developed to proactively anticipate and help people in mental health crisis. With a patent pending, it is my hope that using this App will “lighten the load” for families and law enforcement,” he said.

“This really hit home for me in 2018 when a family member in Madison experienced a mental health crisis and law enforcement got involved.

“After meeting with the crisis intervention officer, I ended up playing a song for my relative from our childhood, which calmed them down,” Cain said.

“That incident with my relative prompted me to return to school and create MERA. There has to be a better way to deal with mental health crisis other than involving law enforcement.

“Many times, in the absence of adequate mental health services, people are criminalized when they experience a mental health episode,” he said.

Cain’s MERA App uses assistive technology to integrate with smartwatches. It reads the users’ heart rate and stress levels, as well as gives recommendations to practice mindfulness or seek professional help.

Montréal Cain recalls the day his car got stuck in a snowbank. Exasperated that the car wouldn’t budge, he felt a sense of relief when a neighbor came out with a rug to provide traction, a shovel, and helped him dig the car out.

“I like random acts of kindness. I never forgot how that kind gesture made me feel. And, since that day, I never miss an opportunity to help someone.

“Whether it’s digging them out of the snow, helping them through a crisis, or something else,” said Cain.

Now the Executive Director of MERA Cares, an ecosystem that prioritizes mental health crisis intervention and prevention, Cain shares that he always knew he wanted to help others. But over the years, the vision and manner in how he can help



Randy Crump

“He moved to Milwaukee, got a job and also cut hair in our house on the weekends. I became a workaholic just like him.

“Trying to balance that was always a challenge, but along the way I discovered other interests, like working in the community.”

When the Crumps learned that their son got accepted into Harvard, at first they panicked.

Fortunately, because his academics were good, he received financial assistance, but that ultimately led to the Crumps founding Dream Chasing.

Crump, his wife, and a few adult chaperones have taken “dream chasers” to college campuses all across the country, including Notre Dame, Harvard, MIT, Princeton, Purdue, Howard, and Hampton, to name a few.

“We were able to expose them (high school students) to a new world. They also learned that if they were smart enough and their family’s income was under \$45,000 (in 2000), they could go to Harvard for free! They became fired up for their future,” said Crump.

Becoming a teen dad never stopped Randy Crump from chasing his dreams. The first in his family to graduate from college, during his high school senior year, he went to school half a day and worked to take care of his responsibilities.

Raised by his dad after his mother passed away when he was 13 years old, Crump’s father thought he should give up on college and get a job.

“My father said I needed to get a job to take care of my family. I told him that I had to do both, because of the promise I made to my mother to go to college,” said Crump.

“I was always an entrepreneur. I got that from my father, who worked as a sharecropper in the south.



Louis DeSilva

Louis DeSilva, one of the five founders of Breakfast Club M.K.E. and the moderator, said the group started as a way for a handful of longtime friends to stay connected. Shortly after starting, COVID-19 halted the gatherings. Now, post-COVID, the group has taken on a life of its own.

“This started as a men’s fellowship—a way to connect with other men—and grew from there. At first we had about 25 men gathering regularly. That grew to 50, then 70 and now close to 100 men show up.

“As young boys, we grew up on Franklin Square and the Boys’ Club. People like Roy Hill, Jimmy Johnson, Andrew Douglas, and others ‘schooled us’ on the playground. They taught us how to be gentlemen and men.

Those guys and others like them are one of the main things that our youth are missing in our city. I hope the Breakfast Club M.K.E. will pick up some of that slack.

On the second Friday of every month, you can find as many as 90 Black men— young and old—gathering at Family Table Restaurant on Brown Deer Road. While partaking of a variety of breakfast foods, they fellowship, uplift and learn from each other.

They also have an ulterior motive: they want to groom younger men to become leaders, fathers, stewards of the community, and heirs of the Breakfast Club M.K.E.



Dr. Zeno Franco

opened to be Hispanic as well. He saw that I had more potential than I was allowing myself to utilize. He invited me to sit in on his shop class and he talked to me about life. Dr. Franco has overcome what he refers to as “a couple of chips on my shoulder,” and is a clinical psychologist at the Milwaukee VA and a research faculty member at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Franco also has some sage advice for men in black and brown communities.

“We must keep going. Sometimes we’re down and other times we think maybe we’ve gone all the further we can go. We’ve come from so far behind. I’ve been consistently surprised that we can still advance a little further than we imagine. You can go further, but you might get tired. And, after we turn corners, we are obligated to bring other men forward.

“In the end, I want people to know that I’ve tried to engage with every person I encountered with respect and honor. I’ve also tried to make their lives better, one person at a time, one handshake at a time,” he said.

Raised in East Los Angeles, Zeno Franco, PhD has had a keen interest in psychology since his late teens.

“I was always interested in people and how groups of people worked together, and I wanted to help people and intervene in circumstances where they wanted some guidance,” said Dr. Zeno. Born to a father from Mexico and a mother of Irish descent, Dr. Zeno admits that in his early years he didn’t always live up to his potential. “My parents divorced when I was about two years old, but my grandparents always put a high priority on education. It was always their expectation that we would receive a good education and they pushed me and all my cousins to get through the system.

“I was fortunate to have a high school ceramics teacher, Mr. Jim Estrada, who hap-



Dr. Sirr Grice

him as a member of its Board of Directors since 2021.

“I am passionate about my community and many of its health initiatives and challenges and, so I reached out to Pastor Walter Lanier, who was board chair of MHSI at the time, about volunteering and ended up serving on the board,” he said.

“Being a Black man in a white world is still a challenge. I have had to learn (and am still learning) to get rid of the anger I possess against those I perceive to be against me. I have to acknowledge that not all are against me and those that are against me do not define or dictate my next steps.

“My seven-year-old daughter, three-year-old son and my wife are my biggest cheerleaders. My wife forces me to achieve my greatness and never limits any vision that I have,” he said.

“Personally, I want to be a positive example in my community. I want to help push the next generation and those behind us to achieve educational greatness. I have direct mentorships with a couple of men, giving them guidance and navigating the world we live in.”

If you’ve ever visited the Walgreen’s Pharmacy on East Capitol Drive, chances are you’ve had some interaction with Dr. Sirr Grice. What you may not know is that he’s a ‘homegrown’ Milwaukeean, who has spent the last 35 years in the same Sherman Park neighborhood that he grew up in.

Even though he ventured out of the area to attend Florida A & M University, he epitomizes what Milwaukee needs in terms of slowing the brain drain.

Dr. Grice left Milwaukee to attend college, but returned to not only use his skills here, but also spend time volunteering in our community.

In his quest to do so, Milwaukee Health Services, Inc. (MHSI) is fortunate to have



Earl Ingram

He didn’t just listen to Black radio hosts, but also conservative talk show hosts like Mark Belling and Charlie Sykes, challenging them on their call-in shows.

“I built a following among Black and White people, which eventually led to me becoming a fill-in radio host for Eric Von’s radio show on WMCS,” said Ingram.

He earned a name for himself in radio, which opened the door to him having his own talk show.

Ingram also organized the Neighborhood Children’s Sports League, serving as its president for more than 20 years. During this time he helped build the largest youth tackle football league in Wisconsin. It grew to 800 kids strong.

“We must realize that we have a responsibility as Black men to uplift, give back, transform, direct, and guide young boys. After we’re gone, somebody has to lead. The legacy of our people must continue.”

Listening to the radio was Earl Ingram’s favorite past time. He bought his first transistor radio at the age of 12 and he can still recite O.C. White, Jim Frazier, Dr. Bop’s bravado or rap.

“Those conversations shaped who I am. I also enjoyed listening to Eldridge Cleaver, Dr. Martin Luther King, and Muhammad Ali. All those Black men fighting for me and people like me shaped my warrior instinct. They fought against injustices and live with me daily,” said Ingram.



Kenneth Ginlack

into treatment for 90 days and then transitional living for 90 days.

That was more than 30 years ago. Today, not only is Ginlack the CEO/Executive Director of Serenity Inns, a residential treatment center with four locations, but he has earned Bachelor and Master’s degrees and is a licensed psychotherapist.

After getting ‘clean,’ he enrolled at MATC to become a drug counselor. There, through an internship, he started working with youth, made the honor roll and even won the President’s Honor Award. When he graduated from MATC, it was the first time he walked across the stage to participate in a graduation ceremony.

“That was significant because my mother was able to see me achieve that. Four months later she passed away. My mom always believed in me even when others looked down on me. She never gave up. I struggled with her death. Perseverance helped me get through that.”

Ginlack also joined a fraternity—Omega Psi Phi. “With the Omega’s, I’ll sometimes do a group to create that vulnerable space so that they can open up and have someone to talk to. I’m always encouraging men apart from the population I work with.

Kenneth Ginlack vividly recalls the day that he was on a mission to commit a robbery.

“I had met two men in the gas station that I was planning to rob. They were driving to get drugs while I was in the back seat contemplating how I was going to rob them.

“I had a steel pipe hidden in my coat sleeve when a voice said, “If you do this it will change your life forever.” I couldn’t believe what I was hearing at first, so I ignored it. Then, I heard the voice speak to me again with the same warning. I told my friends to stop the car and let me out. I got out and I started crying uncontrollably,” said Ginlack.

After exiting the car, Ginlack found his way to White’s Residential Treatment Center on 27th and North Avenue. He went



Rep. Kaylan Haywood

“Early in my political career she advised me and helped me stay focused,” he said.

Politics has its ups and downs and it’s been no different for Rep. Haywood, especially given his young age.

“My age has been both an asset and a challenge. People are surprised that at such a young age, I ran for and was elected into office.

“At the same time, I know and many have come to understand, that I bring a fresh and different perspective to issues.

“Along the way, people have helped, encouraged and supported me.

“For example, on the day of my first swearing in ceremony then-Senator Fred Risser (Madison), who was 91 years old, joked with me about the irony of our ages—I was 19 and he was 91, but he also gave me some great advice.

He said, “No matter what happens today, the sun will come up tomorrow, and life is a marathon. You won’t win every day but you keep going,” said Rep. Haywood.

Now serving his fourth term, Kalan Haywood is the youngest State Representative elected to office in Wisconsin history.

Sworn in at the age of 19 years old, Haywood has what some folks call ‘an old soul,’ which is no doubt rooted in the guidance, camaraderie, and support he has always received from his grandmother, Kathy.

“My grandmother has always been there for me—during every big moment in my life—through my hard days and good days.

“She taught me my ABC’s and numbers, made me meals after school, and helped me with my homework.

“She was always supportive and has been my sounding board and trusted confidante.



Shawn Muhammad

and ashamed, and I thought whatever atonement is, I need to do that. It changed me forever.

“From that point on, I got serious. I became more self-determined, more cognizant of my character, and I took fatherhood seriously. That March marked the beginning of my transformation,” he said.

He graduated from Riverside High School and attended UW-Milwaukee, where he studied Business and Africology. He graduated from Springfield College (which had a satellite campus in Milwaukee) with a degree in Human Services with a focus on Addiction Services.

Muhammad considers himself a victim advocate but now as the Associate Director manages the day-to-day agency operations of Asha Family Services, Inc. (Asha).

The organization provides culturally specific methods to address the elimination of gender-based violence including the sexual exploitation of women and children in African American communities.

Shawn Muhammad credits the Million Man March for helping him change his life. Called by The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and held on October 16, 1995, in and around the National Mall in Washington, DC, this historic gathering resulted in Muhammad doing a lot of self-reflection.

“The theme of the march was Atonement, Reconciliation and Responsibility. I had just had my first child and I was running from that responsibility.

“I saw all those Black men there, crying



Chief Jeffrey Norman

That's why fatherhood is so critical. He understood the importance of acquiring an education and that it was something no one could take away from you. He made it known to me and my brother that he would not accept anything but excellence from us. We understood that education is the key to success, so I leaned into my educational experiences and earned those degrees," said Chief Norman.

"Any leadership position has challenges to overcome and sometimes there exists self-made glass ceilings, which can be even more challenging if you don't have trusted support or guidance.

"If you know what you're doing or deserve to be where you are professionally, you can't let the detractors stop you from moving up the ranks".

"Whatever mark is left about my leadership in this city, I want to be remembered for trying to make this a better community. I put my soul, strength and spirit into that work. I want people to know that I cared about them," he said with undeniable passion and genuineness.

Police Chief Jeffrey Norman always envisioned a career in law. While initially he wasn't sure if he wanted to become an attorney or work in law enforcement, his passion and desire to engage with the community swayed his decision.

"I definitely wanted to be in law enforcement in some capacity. Growing up, being exposed to the D.A.R.E. program, living near District Police Station #5 back in the day, I was exposed to law enforcement officers and I always loved being in the community. I'm an outgoing person and I saw an opportunity to do both—pursue law and be engaged in the community," said Chief Norman.

"My father, Jesse, played a pivotal role in my life, instilling within me the motivation and determination to pursue an education.



Alphonso Pettis

Semi-retired from a social service agency that works with victims of domestic violence, Pettis started an organization called Mentoring Through Sports and is pursuing his life's passion—martial arts and mentoring.

Even though he saw his uncle go through lots of personal struggles, Pettis said that his uncle was a male role model for him.

"My uncle worked hard, maintained his manhood, and was a good father to his children. One time when I got into trouble, I saw his eyes watering up and it really hurt because I felt I had let him down. I admired him so much and wanted to do my best to make him proud.

"As men, we have a foundational responsibility to our village—our community. That responsibility is not trying to be the head, but the foundation of family. We must know our purpose, keep our vision and be present for our family. It's important that we know who we are, understand who we are, and be who we are.

"Be good" resonates with me. I took that piece of advice from my grandmother, carry it with me, and tell it to my adult son, three daughters, and seven grandchildren.

As a young sixth grader, Alphonso Pettis was small in stature compared to the other boys his age which made him a target for bullying. This began to change when one day Pettis was sitting on the porch, with no friends, and a man was walking the block, passing out flyers about free marital arts classes.

"I was already a Kung Fu theater fan, so I asked my mother if I could participate and she agreed," said Pettis.

That was more than 60 years ago. Pettis is now a seventh degree black belt in four different styles of martial arts. What's more, he uses martial arts to help other youth—not just to teach them to defend themselves but also to teach them self-discipline.



Quentin Prince

ness, Youth Development and Family Engagement programs.

Since 2018 Prince has also worked as Executive Director of the Milwaukee Youth Sports Alliance (MYSA), which was started in 2019 to address some of the city's young people being left behind by involving them in sports activities to help diminish social problems while offering children positive outlets. "Being born and raised in Milwaukee, I want to see our city unified and working collectively together. There is a ripple effect and a causality to everything. If we can better support our youth that will impact our ongoing effort to make the community better," he said.

Prince also supports a men's wellness initiative. "Creating spaces for men to acknowledge and understand mental and relationship intelligence is important to help them navigate relationships with their families and partners," he said.

Quentin Prince dreamt of becoming an architect—until he started volunteering at Journey House. He fell in love with education and youth development and he has now worked at Journey House for 24 years. Currently he is the Director of Youth Leadership Student Success, where he oversees Journey House's youth development, STEM and college programs. Journey House is a nonprofit organization that empowers families to move out of poverty by offering Adult Education, Workforce Read-



Rep. Supreme Moore Omokunde

heritage," said Moore Omokunde.

Rep. Moore Omokunde 'cut his teeth' in politics early on, helping his mother, Congresswoman Gwen Moore. Even though he was only eight years old, he recalls canvassing the neighborhood when his mother first ran for the State Assembly.

"I was curious about what she did, so in the heat of the summer, I donned a white suit and went door-to-door with my mother, talking to residents. And, while I had an interest in politics, I never had a desire to become a politician. In fact, I ran away from it until one day, I tripped and fell, and it caught me," he said.

While his life has not been without conflict, Rep. Moore Omokunde refuses to let missteps define him.

"Make sure you are telling your own story. There's always someone else willing to tell a less flattering version of it for you. There was an incident in 2004 that resulted in some people trying to define who I am as an individual. It is part of my story, but it has not defined me or prevented me from being the best of who I am," he said.

Rep. Supreme Moore Omokunde's beginning is unique, fascinating and foretelling. Born in Milwaukee, at home rather than a hospital, he proudly shares that he was raised by 'a village,' versus a family. Shortly after his birth, Moore Omokunde's parents celebrated his birth and presented him to the community with an African naming ceremony called an EkaMon Jade.

Because his father practices traditional African Spirituality, Moore Omokunde grew up with a deep appreciation for African culture and tradition which is rooted in knowledge passed on to him by his father.

"My dad traced his lineage back to his Nigerian tribe. He also traced my mother's lineage. I grew up with a real appreciation of knowing where I came from, so I have a great interest in and deep gratitude for my



Dr. Ricky L. Price, Sr.

Sheriff Earnell R. Lucas.

Dr. Price's mother, Ada L. Price, was one of the first women pastors in Milwaukee. She founded and led the Power House of Deliverance of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. that for years was located on 12th Street, across from Williamson's Funeral Home. The church later moved to 27th and Atkinson.

After 38 years, Dr. Price retired from the Teamsters Union to pursue ministry full time. Not resting on his laurels, in 2021, he founded "Joy Unspeakable," a radio broadcast which airs on WGLB Radio AM 1560 and 96.1 FM.

Even though Dr. Price is busy juggling a myriad of community and church events, he has had to overcome his own personal challenges and losses. He doesn't want much in return for the sacrifices he makes on behalf of others and his community.

"I just want people to say that I was a good man. That's it. I was a good man and I tried to help everyone that I could," he said.

Since the age of 13, Dr. Ricky L. Price has been immersed in ministry. In fact, six of his family members—from Memphis, TN to North Carolina, and Milwaukee—are ministers.

"My life has always been associated with ministry. My mom stayed on top of her 12 children to make sure that we came up in the way of holiness," he said.

And that he did, receiving his Doctorate of Divinity from Agape Love Bible College and School of Theology in 2022. He also has a Master's of Chaplaincy from the International Police and Fire Chaplain Association and Bible College and was subsequently appointed Chaplain with the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office by then-



Brandon Ramey

what my dad was doing, but now that I work in the community engagement space, I realize that he taught me so many lessons. This has allowed me to delve into these spaces and it has become more of a passion.

Growing up, I didn't always realize the blessing in the mentor that I had but as I continue to navigate life, nobody comes close to the impact that he's had on me. As a father and now as a parent, my first call if I need advice professionally or personally, is my father," said Ramey.

"I want to be remembered by others for the presence that I brought not only in the rooms I stepped in, but how I was toward others. I want people to remember the times we had together and the ideas shared. If Ramey provides a glimpse into the quality of our future leaders, it looks like we've left the next generation in good hands!

Growing up in Milwaukee on 49th and Hampton Street, Brandon Ramey never had to look far for a role model. His father, LaNelle Ramey (also one of this year's honorees), has worked in the social services space and as a mentor, most of his life.

"I grew up being involved with organizations like the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Clubs, because my father worked in those nonprofits. I got my first job with the Boys and Girls Clubs and spent most of my time there playing basketball. I never realized



LaNelle Ramey

He returned to Milwaukee and earned a Bachelor's in Pre-Law/Criminology and a Master's in Public Administration at Marquette University. He is also a graduate of Cardinal Stritch University's African American Leadership Program (AALP).

Faith is at the core of Ramey's passion and desire to give back, reach back and spend a lifetime helping, mentoring and supporting youth in our community.

"There have been times in my life where I question if something is out of my lane, but with faith, I move forward trusting in God. What's for me, is for me. Typically, I just step into a challenge with faith and own the path that I'm on," said Ramey.

Ramey said that being a young Black man can be overwhelming and being transparent and vulnerable about failures (and successes) can often be difficult.

"Overall, men are constantly battling how much of their emotions they can or should share. Since birth we have been trained to be tough. We've lacked permission and space to be free with our emotions for so many years. Many of our downfalls as fathers, men, and husbands are because of our inability to lean in on all of our emotions. We need to step into a better space."

LaNelle Ramey had plans to pursue a career in law enforcement, either as an attorney or working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In need of employment during the summer of 1994, he took a job working with young people and has never looked back.

Ramey started his non-profit journey at New Concept Self Development Center and spent 14 years working with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee serving in roles as Executive Branch Director, Area Director and Senior Director of Programs. He is now the Executive Director of Mentoring Greater Milwaukee.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Ramey graduated from Riverside High School and briefly attended Morehouse College in Atlanta.



Shannon Ross

and authored several articles that were published locally and nationally. He also founded and published a newsletter called, The Community, which now has a readership of more than 6,500.

The Community aims to bring together society and those impacted by the judicial system—currently and formerly incarcerated people and their loved ones. Their work is centered on doing pre-entry work in prison and helping people inside prison prepare for the outside before they are released - or even if they aren't coming home. It's about changing the environment inside since 95% of those incarcerated return home at some point.

"As I strive to achieve my vision for The Community, I'm also navigating the complexities and challenges involved in operating a nonprofit. You get into this type of work to change lives, but you're also getting into a space that involves a lot of other skill-sets such as administrative work, political nuances and strategic planning that, on the surface, have little to do with the actual work."

"I want to be able to pass away and feel that I have legitimately done things that will be sustainable," he said.

The idea of The Community, the organization of which Shannon Ross is founder and CEO, evolved in 2014 while he was serving 17 years in prison. The Community is a nonprofit organization created to foster personal development and post-release preparation for incarcerated people primarily in Wisconsin. Its mission is to "foster the full potential of people with criminal records through pre-entry and showcasing their successes and humanity through correcting the narrative."

While he could have spent those 17 years feeling sorry for himself or biding his time, Ross' productivity and accomplishments were on steroids. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, co-designed and co-managed a mental health program in the prison for two years



Pastor Richard Shaw

café was next door to Zion United Methodist Church, where blacks were meeting that night. She inspired me.

"Even though my father wasn't in the picture, the men in the church helped raise me and spent time with me. I accepted Christ as a child and pretty much always knew my calling, but I accepted the calling in 1997," he said.

"I enjoy taking younger men under my wings and sharing my experiences with them. Most of my two sons' friends refer to me as "Pops."

The men I grew up with in the church took time with me, and this is one way I pay it forward.

"The best advice I can give to any man is to stay focused on what God has called you to do, not just in the realm of preaching. What has God given you responsibility for? Whether it's your family, finances, or community; there are so many distractions, but you have to stay focused," he said.

Pastor Richard D. Shaw grew up in Marion, AL, in the same birthplace of civil rights icons Coretta Scott King and Andrew Young's wife (Jean Childs Young). It is also the place where civil rights activist Jimmie Lee Jackson died in 1965 after being brutally beaten and shot by Alabama State Trooper James Bonard Fowler, an incident that sparked the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) to organize the Selma to Montgomery marches.

"My mother, Normareen Shaw, was a civil rights activist. In fact, she and my grandmother owned and operated Mac's Cafe where Jimmie Jackson was killed.

"My mother was forced by State Troopers to open the café that evening. The



Alderman Russell Stamper, II

deeds, and deciding who and what he wants to be.

Among his many mentors, Ald. Stamper said that after he became an alderman, former Common Council Chair Marvin Pratt had the most influence on him.

"I admired his smoothness. His ability to engage with others reminded me of politicians like former Chicago Mayor Harold Washington and former Washington DC Mayor Marion Barry," said Ald. Stamper.

Malcolm X is Ald. Stamper's subliminal mentor.

I would have loved to have met him. I admire his journey and commitment to community. The greatest book I have ever read was Malcolm X's biography. It was excellent," he said.

"I want my community to change. I want people to understand that they do not deserve to live in unclean, disrespected neighborhoods.

"I want them to take ownership of their neighborhood and respect, uphold and uplift where they stay," he said.

Alderman Russell Stamper II still recalls the poem, "Equipment" by Edgar Guest that his mother, Virginia G. Stamper (deceased) used to read to him. The first stanza is:

"Figure it out for yourself, my lad, You've all that the greatest of men have had, Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes, And a brain to use if you would be wise. With this equipment, they all began, So start from the top and say, 'I can.'"

Ald. Stamper continues to embrace and live by that poem. Since 2014, he has been re-elected to the Common Council four times.

He has faced his own weaknesses and overcome challenges but has never let that stop him from progressing, doing good



Terry Thompson

Thompson decided to go to college, where he graduated with a degree in computer science and infrastructure.


"While I was working with CFOs and CEOs at an outdoor power company, I started interacting with a young lady named Deborah. I had panic attacks, she helped me with breathing and pointed me to God since she couldn't answer all the questions I had. God used her to get to me. I've been through and survived so much, but we got married and got baptized together in 2018.

Every other Tuesday, Thompson meets with a group of like-minded men from all different congregations.

"We talk to each other about things that hurt us in our past and confront those things that we typically sweep under the rug. We want to become men who know it's okay to cry. Nothing is taboo. We talk about our abuse and hurt and hold each other accountable. We also talk about our marriages, raising our kids and our childhood trauma."

As a young person growing up in Milwaukee's 53206 neighborhood, Terry Thompson's life was riddled with trauma and tragedy. When he was 14 years old, he had enough of the drama and trauma, and ran away from home. After graduating from North Division with no job, Thompson sold drugs. In 2008 he was shot. A drug raid left him facing more than 12 years in prison. He received two years of probation. At that point that Thompson knew he had to find a different path.

"Until the image of the Black Man in the mind of the Black Man has been changed, there will always be delinquency, juvenile, not to attitude of the Black Man but to change the attitude of the Black Man to himself!"



parental and white man to

—Malcolm X—

Future honorees to look for in upcoming editions of YOUR Milwaukee Community Journal...



Montreal Cain
MERA WI



Arnold Cifax
New Testament Church



Darryl Davidson
Milw. Fatherhood Coalition



Dr. Zeno Franco
Medical College of WI



Dr. SIRR Grice
Milwaukee Health Services, Inc.



Shawn Muhammad
Asha Project



Randy Crump
Prism Technical



Alphonso Pettis
Mentoring Through Sports



Dr. Ricky L. Price, Sr.
Mt. Zion Assembly

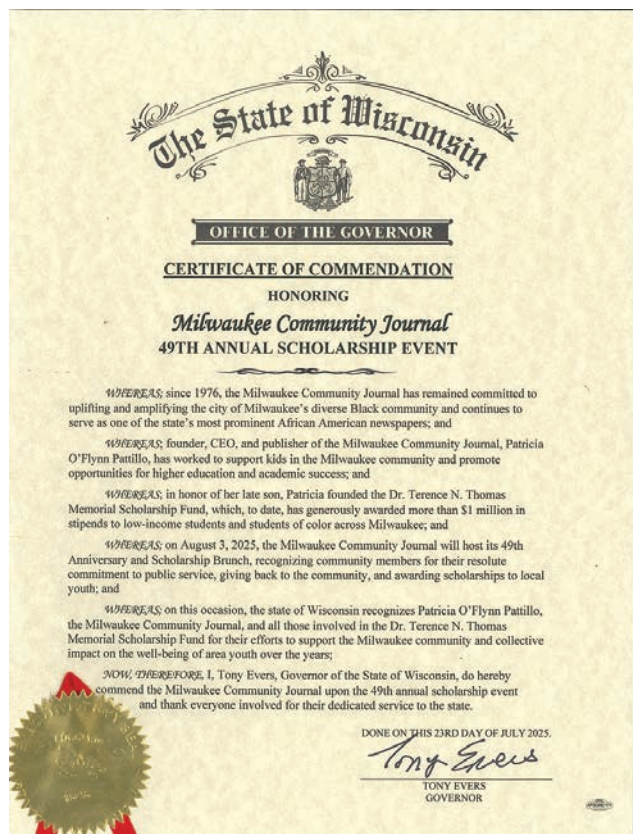


Pastor Richard Shaw
St. Matthew CME



Terry Thompson
YWCA

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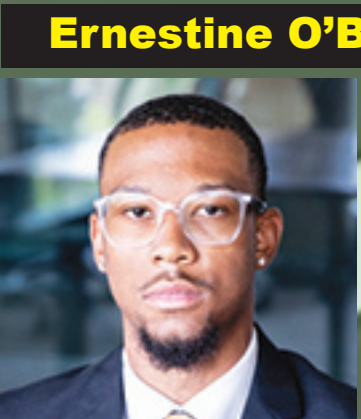
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“The purpose of education...is to create in a person the ability to look at the world for him (or her) self, to make his/her own decisions!” —Noted Black author and activist James Baldwin

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Teacher at
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Black male educators create powerful change at MKE school

By Gideon Verdin, article courtesy of tmj4.com

Milwaukee Academy of Science has doubled its number of Black male educators, creating a powerful impact on students' lives and future aspirations.

Inside the halls of Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS), a quiet revolution is underway.

The school has doubled the number of Black male educators, and students are feeling the positive effects of this representation in their classrooms.

"You see somebody who grew up in the same area as you, same problems and struggles—if they can get through it, you can too," said Jason Reeves, a recent MAS graduate.

Reeves says the mentorship he received from Black male educators inspired him to begin exploring options to become a teacher himself.

"So we have someone to look up to as we're trying to get to the path we wanna make it to," Reeves said.

This growing representation is creating powerful change both inside and outside the classroom, with school leaders focusing on more than just filling positions—they're inspiring futures.

"We all know, often times kids don't get exposed to certain careers—so having a Black male in that classroom, 'I too can be a teacher,'" said Tony McHenry, MAS CEO.

The push stems from a partnership with Profound Gentlemen, helping MAS retain educators of color. It also sparked a Men of Color Affinity Group, where teachers find support and community.

"Anyone who identifies as a male teacher of color—we come together on a monthly basis to talk, be true, be raw. It's not about being who the job calls you to be," said Orlando Verdecia, Assistant Principal.

For MAS teacher Brandon Watkins, this work hits home on a personal level.

"I see some of the trauma they've been through... I see

resistance toward male authority figures... I see a lot," Watkins said.

Black male educators create powerful change at Milwaukee school

It's more than just good optics—it's about building a future. MAS hopes efforts like this will continue to attract more talent that represents their student population.

When asked how the community can help with their mission, McHenry emphasized the importance of spreading awareness.

"Spread the word about the need for high-quality teachers. Whether they're Black, white,

'Reeves says the mentorship he received from Black male educators inspired him to begin exploring options to become a teacher himself. "So we have someone to look up to as we're trying to get to the path we wanna make it to," Reeves said.'

or brown, they deserve the support to have a tremendous impact on young people—and enjoy the work they're doing," McHenry said.

MAS leaders say they're actively recruiting for the next school year and looking to bring in even more Black male educators.

Because for them, it's not just about staffing—it's about changing the game for students like Jason.

"They helped me stay on the right track—a lot," Reeves said.

To Apply to be an Educator at Milwaukee Academy of Science visit their website.

This story was reported on-air by a journalist and has been converted to this platform with the assistance of AI. Our editorial team verifies all reporting on all platforms for fairness and accuracy.



Calvin Thomas, in class writing on board.

Congratulations
MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

49TH ANNIVERSARY

A Legacy of Gold

LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING

Case No. 25CV005663

In the matter of the name change of: AARON BRYAN PLASCENCIA CUELLAR
By (Petitioner) AARON N PLASCENCIA

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: AARON BRYAN PLASCENCIA CUELLAR to: ARELY BRIANNA PLASCENCIA CUELLAR
Birth Certificate: AARON BRYAN PLASCENCIA CUELLAR

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN ROOM 500 PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 5, 2025, TIME 1:30 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 7-2-2025

BY THE COURT:

HON. MICHAEL J HANRAHAN
Circuit Court Judge
375/7-9-16-23-2025

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING

Case No. 25CV006120

In the matter of the name change of: TARRANCE JEREMIAH DIXON

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: TARRANCE JEREMIAH DIXON to: TARRANCE JEREMIAH SCOTT-DIXON
Birth Certificate: TARRANCE JEREMIAH DIXON

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. CYNTHIA DAVIS RM 208 PLACE 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE AUGUST 18, 2025, TIME 10:00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 7-9-2025

BY THE COURT:

HON. CYNTHIA DAVIS
Circuit Court Judge
409/7-30/8-6-13-2025

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING

Case No. 25CV6500

In the matter of the name change of: ANGELA DAWN BRADLEY

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: ANGELA DAWN BRADLEY to: ANGELA DAWN SMITH
Birth Certificate: ANGELA DAWN TOWERS

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit

Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. THOMAS J MCADAMS RM 404 PLACE 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, TIME 11:00 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 7-29-2025

BY THE COURT:

HON. THOMAS J MCADAMS
Circuit Court Judge
407/7-30/8-6-13-2025

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING

Case No. 25CV006079

In the matter of the name change of: ESTHER ALICE PIETRI

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
From: ESTHER ALICE PIETRI to: ESTHER ALICE SCHREITER
Birth Certificate: ESTHER ALICE VERA

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. CYNTHIA DAVIS RM 208 PLACE 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE OCTOBER 8, 2025, TIME 3:30 P.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 7-30-2025

BY THE COURT:

HON. CYNTHIA DAVIS
Circuit Court Judge
408/7-30/8-6-13-2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT WAUKESHA COUNTY (SMALL CLAIMS) PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Case No. 25SC2126

Plaintiff(s) AUTOMAX FINANCIAL LLC, W133 N8569 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY, MENOMONEE FALLS WI 53051 vs CARL ANTHONY SHACKLES 2751 N 57th St MILWAUKEE WI 53210

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S)

You are being sued by the person(s) as named above Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Waukesha County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 262-896-8410 Courtroom/ Room Number C167 Address: 515 W Moreland Blvd. City: Waukesha State WI Zip 53188 on the following date and time: Date: AUGUST 18, 2025, Time: 1:00 P.M

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the

Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Date: 7-24-2025

Plaintiff/Attorney

AMY M BENTLEY
Attorney's State Bar Number 1025449

BENTLEY TUFFNELL LAW, S C 933 N MAYFAIR ROAD. SUITE 325B MILWAUKEE, WI 53226 262-353-9556 402/7-30/8-6-13-2025

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY (SMALL CLAIMS) PUBLICATION SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Case No. 2025SC013662

Plaintiff(s) TYLER C HOPPER 4309 N 50th Milwaukee WI 53216 vs SHE-MARIA GLADNEY 4224 N 17th St Milwaukee WI53209

Publication Summons and Notice of Filing

TO THE PERSON(S) NAMED ABOVE AS DEFENDANT(S)TE AS

You are being sued by the person(s) as named above Plaintiff(s). A copy of the claim has been sent to you #3at your address as stated in the caption above. The lawsuit will be heard in the following Small Claims court: Milwaukee County Courthouse Telephone Number of Clerk of Court: 414-278-5362 Courtroom/ Room Number 400 Address: 901 N 9TH Street City: 53233 Milwaukee State WI Zip 53233 on the following date and time: Date: AUGUST 4, 2025, Time: 8:30 A.M

If you do not attend the hearing, the court may enter a judgment against you in favor of the person(s) suing you. A copy of the claim has been sent to you at your address as stated in the caption above. A judgement may be enforced as provided by law. A judgement awarding money may become a lien against any real estate (property) you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment of seizure of property.

You may have the option to Answer without appearing in court on the court date by filing a written Answer with the clerk of court before the court date. You must send a copy of your Answer to the Plaintiff(s) named above at their address. You may contact the clerk of court at the telephone number above to determine if there are other methods to answer a Small Claims complaint in that county.

Date: 7/23/2025

Plaintiff/Attorney

TYLER C HOPPER
403/7-23-2025

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING

Case No. 2025CV004744

In the matter of the name change of: RAHEEM LEGEND PRICE

By (Petitioner) NIJAH ADRIAN HARRIS

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:
FROM: RAHEEM LEGEND PRICE to: LEGEND HARRIS
Birth Certificate: RAHEEM LEGEND PRICE

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. JEAN M KIES RM 413 PLACE 901 N. 9th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE: AUGUST 28, 2025, TIME 8:45 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.
Dated: 7-28-2025

BY THE COURT:

HON. JEAN M KIES

Circuit Court Judge

404/7-30/8-6-13-2025

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY NOTICE AND ORDER FOR NAME CHANGE HEARING

Case No. 25CV006267

In the matter of the name change of: ATHENA ROSE FARMER

By (Petitioner) ALEXANDRIA RAE GRAF

NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

FROM: ATHENA ROSE FARMER TO: ATHENA ROSE SAYPANYA
Birth Certificate: ATHENA ROSE FARMER

IT IS ORDERED

This petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Judge's Name: HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN PLACE: 901 N. 9th Street, RM 216 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53233 DATE SEPTEMBER 4, 2025, TIME 11:30 A.M.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in the Milwaukee Community Journal, a newspaper published in Milwaukee County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated: 7-22-2025

BY THE COURT:

HON. PAUL VAN GRUNSVEN
Circuit Court Judge
406/7-30/8-6-13-2025

SUMMONS (PUBLICATION) STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT MILWAUKEE COUNTY DIVORCE-40101

Case No. 25FA00267

In Re: The marriage of Petitioner: MARISSA N RUIZ and Respondent OMAR DAMIAN ORTEGA

THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, TO THE PERSON NAMED ABOVE AS RESPONDENT:

You are notified that the petitioner named above has filed a Petition for divorce or legal separation against you.

You must respond with a written demand for a copy of the Petition within 40 days from the day after the first day of publication.

The demand must be sent or delivered to the court at: Clerk of Court, Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N 9th St Milwaukee WI 53233 and to MARISSA N RUIZ 2720 N 76th St Milwaukee WI 53222

It is recommended, but not required that you have an attorney help or represent you.

If you do not demand a copy of the Petition within 40 days, the court may grant judgment against you for the award of money or other legal action requested in the Petition, and you may lose your right

to object to anything that is or may be incorrect in the Petition.

A judgment may be enforced as provided by law. A judgment awarding money may become a lien against any real estate you own now or in the future and may also be enforced by garnishment or seizure of property.

You are further notified that if the parties to this action have minor children, violation of 948.31 Wis. Stats., (Interference with custody by parent or others) is punishable by fines and/or imprisonment:

If you and the petitioner have minor children, documents setting forth the percentage standard for child support established by the department under 49.22(9), Wis. Stats., and the factors that a court may consider for modification of that standard under 767.511 (1m). Wis Stats. are available upon your request from the Clerk of Court.

You are notified of the availability of information from the Circuit Court Commissioner as set forth in 767.105 Wis. Stats.

Date: 7-28-2025

BY: MARISSA N RUIZ
405/7-30/8-6-13-2025

For 49 years, YOUR Milwaukee Community Journal has had its finger on the pulse of Black Milwaukee! We have Black Milwaukee's ATTENTION!

**PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT
THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL TO PUBLISH LEGAL NOTICES**

The Milwaukee Community Journal expanded its services to the greater Milwaukee community with the publishing of legal notices in the 'WEEKEND EDITION.' As a qualified provider of the publication of legal notices, MCJ will serve City, County and State offices for publishing community notifications.

Such notifications include:
Public Hearings
Public Meetings
Election Notices
Divorce Proceedings
Name Changes
Publication of Summons when personal services cannot be made to defendants
Notice of Auction of unclaimed storage property
Probate Notices
Foreclosure Sheriff's sales notice of creditor listing of property for sale.
Other general legal and public notices

ABOUT MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL (MCJ) WEEKEND EDITION

The Milwaukee Community Journal Weekend Edition is published weekly. Each week, MCJ Weekend focuses on different subjects, HEALTH, PERSONAL, FINANCE, FAMILY, MEN, AND WOMEN. THE WEEKEND EDITION now includes the publishing of records designated by the Milwaukee County Circuit Court for publication of legal notices, with added value in the Wednesday Edition. The Weekend Edition is a public newspaper of general circulation that complies with the laws of Wisconsin relating to publication of legal notices. MCJ Weekend Edition has published weekly over ten years, in the State of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County. We have a paid circulation of approximately 89% of our circulation, weekly. And our actual paid subscribers are over the 1000 required by State Statute.

ABOUT THE MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL (MCJ)

The Milwaukee Community Journal (MCJ) is a quality news organization published throughout Milwaukee and the surrounding suburbs. Established in 1976, the Milwaukee Community Journal has advanced the plight, struggles and victories of minorities in Wisconsin, with a passion for building community. The MCJ accentuates the positive, analyzes the negatives and advocates to seed success. The Milwaukee Community Journal stockholders are Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo (90%); Mikel Holt (5%); and Todd Thomas Thomas (5%) respectively, and is current in filing by the State of Wisconsin, effective October 10, 2018.

Signed: Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo, President/Publisher



PROGRAM

Emcee - Gideon Verdin Williams, TMJ-4

***Drumming...Honor The Djembe
Call To Order...Earl Thompson***

GRAND PROMENADE

Scholarship Honors C/O 25-26
'Men Building Men' 2025 Honorees

GREETINGS/ PROCLAMATIONS

Honorable Mayor Cavalier Johnson

OCCASION

Atty. John Daniels, MKE Fellowship

INVOCATION

Pastor Walter Owens
New Life International Ministries

Brunch

MUSIC

Music Video- "Lift Every Voice",
Harpist Brandee Younger

Solo "Never Could Have Made It" &
"Dance With My Father Again"- Tony Neal

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Larry Waters
Dr. Terence N. Thomas Memorial Scholarship Fund

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Reverend Tony Lowden
Jabez Ministries, CEO, Fr. Pastor To Late President
Jimmy Carter & Rosalyn Carter

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mike Mullis /Rewa Durham

REMARKS

Patricia O'Flynn Pattillo
Publisher /President MCJ

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Karen Dotson Owens

RAFFLE SILENT AUCTION WINNERS

Beverly Benson-Kern

BENEDICTION

Pastor Walter Owens
New Life International Ministries



Meet **PASTOR TONY LOWDEN**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THIS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Pastor Tony Lowden is the Lead Pastor and Founder of Jabez Ministries. He previously served as Pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, GA, where former President Jimmy Carter and former First Lady Rosalynn Carter was a member. He is a chaplain for the Secret Service in Southwest Georgia and was appointed in 2020 by the White House as Executive Director of the Federal Interagency Council on Crime Prevention and Improving Reentry.



MILWAUKEE COMMUNITY JOURNAL

49th **ANNIVERSARY**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

ITALIAN COMMUNITY CENTER 631 E. CHICAGO STREET MILW., WI

“Men Building Men” a SALUTE to the phenomenal Men of our community who are taking their extraordinary places in schools, businesses, government office, social services, corporate America, churches and our military. They are fathers, brothers, spouses and partners. They are **“Men Building Men”!**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE DR. TERENCE N. THOMAS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

...having given over \$1 million dollars to brilliant students from the community over the years.

Noon Reception followed by Promenade of Honorees & Scholars 1:00 p.m.
SILENT AUCTION...RECEPTION WITH MUSIC

SPONSORED BY:



\$100 PER TICKET

\$800 TABLES OF EIGHT

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