

# Sun-Reporter



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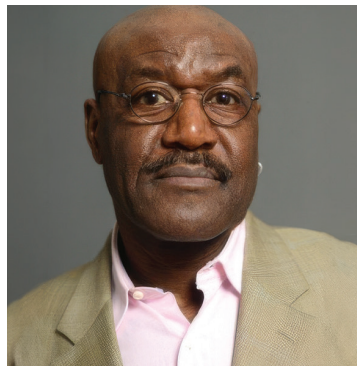
VOLUME 81 - NUMBER 82 • THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

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BEST BUY IN THE WEST

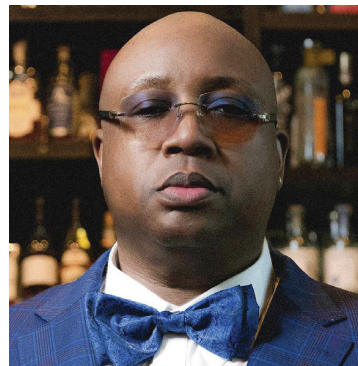
## BLACK MEN: CELEBRATING CHANGE MAKERS



Fred Blackwell



Delroy Lindo



Earl "E-40" Stevens



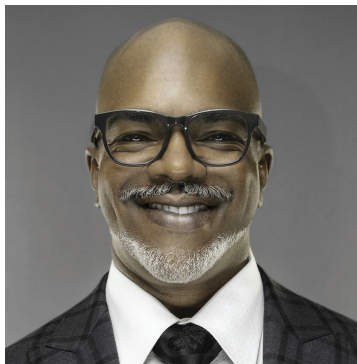
Gary Payton



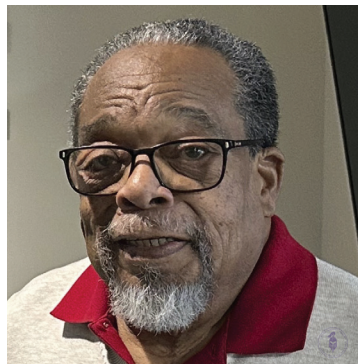
Chief Robert Demmons



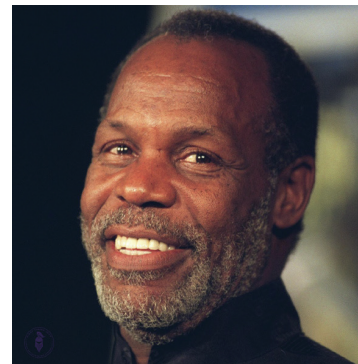
Dr. Frederick D. Haynes, III



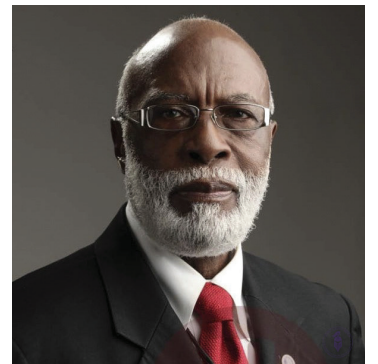
Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr.



Claude Everhart



Danny Glover



Reverend Arelious Walker



Reginald Lyles



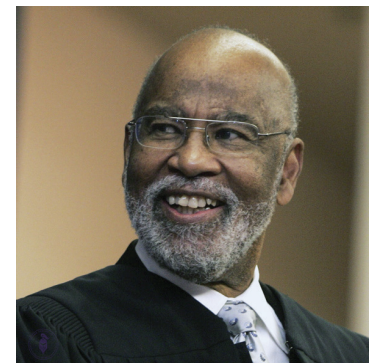
Kofi Bonner



Dr. Joseph Marshall



Herman Jones



Judge Thelton Henderson



Supervisor Shamann Walton



Dr. Toye Moses



Waukeen McCoy, Esq.



Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.



Stephen Curry

# SWAG: The Style, Wisdom, Audacity, and Grace of Black Men

Sun Reporter



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Dedicated to the cause of the people— that no good cause shall lack a champion and evil shall not thrive unopposed.

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Carlton B. Goodlett, PH.D., MD.,  
Editor/Publisher  
1945-1997

**Amelia Ashley-Ward**  
Editor/Publisher

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux

**H**ave you ever heard Willie Brown speak? Before he utters a word, he has already made an entrance. He does not merely walk into a room; he arrives. Impeccably attired, often in the kind of Wilkes Bashford elegance that made San Francisco style its own political language, Brown speaks with his whole body. There is a strut in his cadence, a wink in his wisdom, and a mastery of timing that reminds us that power, when worn well, can be both strategic and stylish.

But Willie Brown's style has never been merely sartorial. It is the style of a Black man who learned how to navigate power, command rooms that were not designed for him, and open doors through which others might pass. His swagger is not vanity. It is survival refined into art. It is confidence earned in hostile spaces. It is the audacity of a Black man who knew he belonged before others were prepared to admit it.

Yes, Willie has swag. More correctly, and most ebonically, Willie got swag. Swagger, at its best, is not arrogance. It is history, discipline, survival, joy, and service made visible. Sun-Reporter publisher Amelia Ashley-Ward has compiled a list of twenty Black men who either live in the Bay Area or have Bay Area roots. One way or another, they all have SWAG, and I was both delighted and challenged to write about them for this special issue. Delighted? I know some of these men personally and am proud to see them lifted. Challenged? How does one reduce the

essence of Black manhood to a sentence, a paragraph, or even an acronym as straightforward as SWAG: style, wisdom, audacity, and grace?

I remember hearing Willie Brown speak years ago about California's changing demographics. It was vintage Willie — funny, sharp, stylish, and just provocative enough. He told the room that we had better get ready for a new California, one where salsa might replace ketchup on the side of our eggs. People laughed, but some shifted in their seats, too. That was Willie: a one-liner could become a warning; a joke could become a forecast. He understood before many others did that California's future would be multiracial, multicultural, and politically transformed. His one-liners were never merely jokes. They were political weather reports.

Rev. Dr. Frederick Douglass Haynes III — those of us who know him call him Freddy — carries the energy and passion of his iconic namesake. Freddy Haynes gives us the Black pulpit at full height: soaring rhetoric, moral clarity, scriptural fire, and a social-justice spine. A longtime friend, Rev. Haynes reminds me that preaching is not merely performance, but power; not simply inspiration, but a summons. His language is both balm and blade, comforting the wounded while cutting through hypocrisy. He stands in the prophetic tradition that insists faith must speak in public, love must confront injustice, and the Word must be made flesh in the streets. Now, as the Democratic nominee for Texas's 30th Congressional District, he is poised to carry that prophetic voice into Congress.

Shamann Walton's public life



DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX

carries the arc of transformation: from juvenile hall to City Hall, from school board leadership to District 10 representation, from neighborhood advocacy to the presidency of the Board of Supervisors. As the first Black man elected to lead that body, and as a force behind San Francisco's reparations process, Walton reminds us that Black male leadership is also about repair — repairing systems, repairing communities, and insisting that the city tell the truth about its past. At a Black to San Francisco event a couple of years ago, I watched him interact with HBCU students who participated in the program. A Morris Brown graduate, he understands how under-resourced HBCUs are and how transformative the Black to SF program was for our young people. He was present, attentive, and easy with them. That, too, is leadership: not just policy, but presence.

While all of these men have passion for our young people, Dr. Joseph Marshall made that passion an institution. He

founded the Omega Boys Club, now Alive & Free, and turned grief over young lives lost into a San Francisco institution rooted in intervention, prevention, discipline, and love. Joe Marshall gives us grace as intervention: the grace of refusing to give up on young people whom society has already written off.

Dr. Toye Moses offers another kind of grace: the steady, patient work of community connection. He reminds us that Black male leadership is not always performed from a podium or spotlight. Sometimes it is built through family, faith, relationships, outreach, and the everyday architecture of community. The work of connecting people to opportunity, resources, and one another rarely gets the applause it deserves, but cities cannot hold together without it.

It takes grace to be a public servant, and it also takes audacity. One of my favorite Martin Luther King

Continued on page 10

# FRED BLACKWELL

**F**red Blackwell currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of the San Francisco Foundation, one of the largest community foundations in the country, while simultaneously serving as a visiting professor in the City and Regional Planning Department at UC Berkeley — training the next generation of people who will make decisions about which communities get invested in and which get left behind. That Mr. Blackwell holds both roles at once is legendary because it means the framework he built across thirty years of Bay Area community development work doesn't stay inside one institution. It moves through the students he teaches and the grants his foundation makes at the same time.

Since joining the San Francisco Foundation in 2014, Mr. Blackwell has steered one of the largest community foundations in the country toward an explicit equity agenda focused on racial and economic inclusion — and that matters because most philanthropic institutions talk about equity without reorganizing their money around it. The difference between communities that get funded and communities that don't is different in the Bay Area because of decisions Mr. Blackwell made at that foundation. Philanthropy that doesn't center racial equity leaves the same people behind every cycle. Mr. Blackwell changed the cycle, and that is what makes his leadership at the San Francisco Foundation legendary.

Before joining the foundation, Mr. Blackwell served as interim city administrator of Oakland, executive director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, and director of the SF Mayor's Office of Community Development — a combination of roles that gave him direct control over the actual levers of urban development in two of the Bay Area's most significant cities. Redevelopment agencies are legendary in their power precisely because they decide which neighborhoods get invested in and which get bulldozed. Mr. Blackwell ran one, which means he understands from the inside how those decisions get made and who pays the price when they go wrong — and that understanding is what makes everything he has built since more than just philanthropy.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Blackwell managed comprehensive community initiatives in West Oakland and the Lower San Antonio neighborhood of Oakland for the Annie E. Casey Foundation — going into communities that philanthropy typically flies over and building something that actually lasted. That willingness to do the ground-level work before ascending to the executive level is what separates Mr. Blackwell from the merely accomplished. He didn't learn what these communities needed from a distance. He learned it from inside them — and that is what makes Fred Blackwell legendary.



*Fred Blackwell, CEO*

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CHANGE  
MAKER.**

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# SHAMANN WALTON: WORKING UNTIL THE END

By Lee Hubbard

**I**t has been a long eight years for Shamann Walton, the San Francisco Supervisor for District 10, the area that encompasses Bayview, Hunters Point, Dogpatch and Potrero Hill.

He first came to the Supervisor's office after being elected in November of 2018. Before that, he was the former president and member of the San Francisco Board of Education. After his term ends, he will be out of city government for the first time in 12 years, when his term ends in January of 2027.

"I don't know what I am gonna do once this job is over," said Walton. "I am not there yet, but right now, I am trying to do the best I can do, with this job I have right now."

Walton succeeded Malia Cohen, who was the Supervisor in the area for the previous eight years. Cohen succeeded Sophie Maxwell, who was the first supervisor for the area after San Francisco went from citywide to district elections in 2002. With district elections, many of the issues that have impacted District 10 have started to get addressed.

"We have created the most affordable housing units in San Francisco in District 10," said Walton. "More than any other area in the city."

The affordable housing created includes tracks of housing units on Third Street, in the Hunters Point Shipyard, housing units over near Pier 70, as well as the rebuilding of public housing in Potrero Hill, West Point and the Sunnydale area of San Francisco.

Besides the new housing, Walton cites a list of completed projects that have taken place under his watch. They include the completion of the new Southeast Community Center, Southeast Health Center, KC Jones/MLK Park, Crane Cove Park, Shoreview Playground, Hertz Playground, India Basin and Esprit Park.

"My main thing has been about my accessibility to D10 residents, affordable housing and addressing the disparities that have historically impacted D10 residents," added Walton.

While San Francisco only has a six percent Black population, District 10 has the highest concentration of Black people in San Francisco. Some people refer to the area as the final frontier for Black people in San Francisco.

Walton knows the area well. Born in San Francisco and raised between Hunters Point and Potrero Hill, Walton left the area during his high school years for Vallejo. After attending and graduating from Morris Brown College in Atlanta, Georgia, he came back to San Francisco. He started working at Young Community Developers, where he became the Executive Director of this workforce development nonprofit.

At YCD, that's when he decided to get involved in San Francisco politics. All of this is detailed in his book, *From Juvenile Hall to City Hall: Your Resume Can Change*, which details his early life troubles and his life transformation.

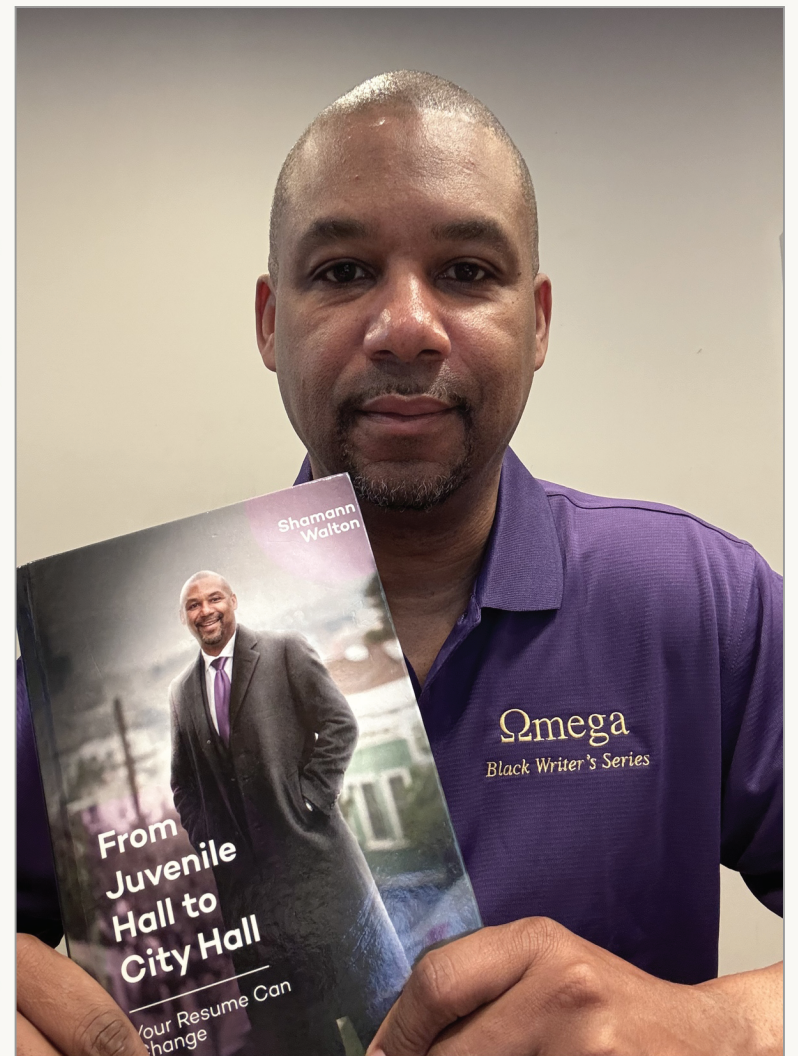
Walton was the main Supervisor who addressed the needs of Black San Franciscans, with his push for reparations. He helped to set up a reparations task force to look at the historic injustices Black people have suffered in San Francisco. The reparations task force came up with over 100 recommendations to help improve the lives of Black San Franciscans.

"These recommendations help to address the wealth disparities that have impacted Black San Franciscans," added Walton. "No city has put legislation on the books to address racial disparities like we have."

While he has close to six months to go before he is out of office, he said that not starting the development at Candlestick Point 'has been a thorn in my side.' He said that the next supervisor in D10 has to make sure all of the affordable housing slated for the area comes into play.

He mentioned projects like the Schlage Lock development in Visitation Valley, the Candlestick Point development and further development near Pier 70.

"While everyone is focused on bringing back downtown, we need to make sure we do not ignore the southeast sector and all of the work that needs to be completed," continued Walton.



**Shamann Walton**  
San Francisco Supervisor, District 10

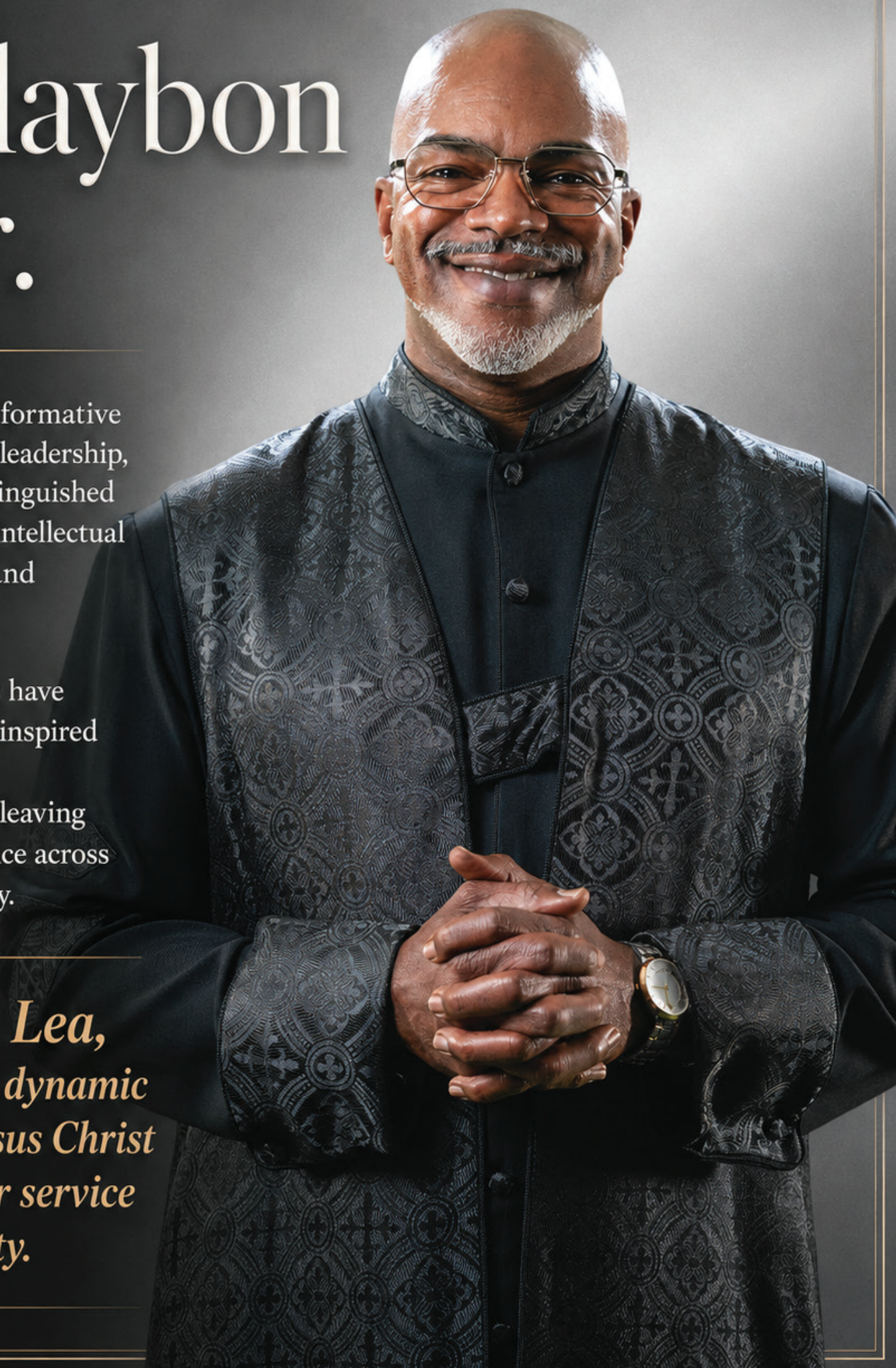


# Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr.

Widely regarded as a transformative voice in contemporary faith leadership, Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr. has distinguished himself through decades of intellectual rigor, pastoral excellence, and principled service.

His enduring contributions have shaped religious discourse, inspired generations of leaders, and strengthened communities, leaving a legacy of profound influence across the broader faith community.

*Thank you, Dr. Lea,  
for leading us into a dynamic  
relationship with Jesus Christ  
and equipping us for service  
to God and humanity.*



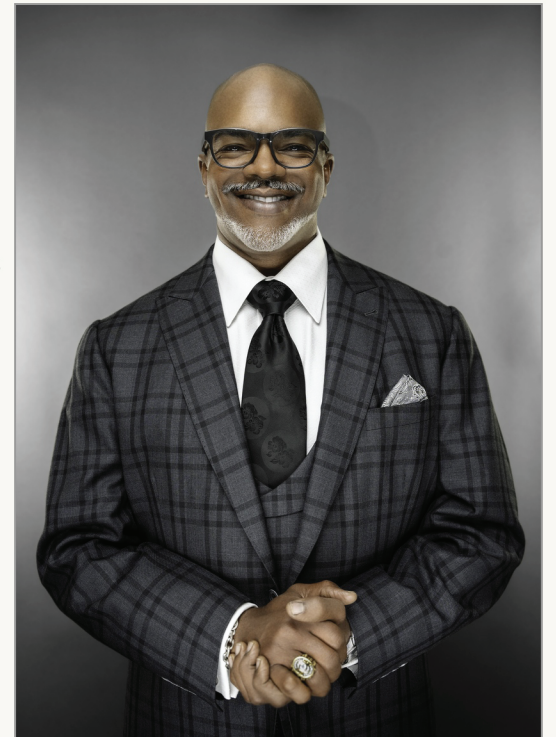
## DR. CLAYBON LEA, JR.

In June 2025, Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr. was appointed to the Commission on Human Rights, Peacebuilding, and Reconciliation for the Baptist World Alliance — a body that operates across 120 countries and represents 47 million Baptists worldwide. That appointment matters because the Baptist World Alliance doesn't place people on its human rights commission based on reputation alone. It places people there because the global church has determined that they are equipped to represent its values in the most contested and consequential human rights conversations happening anywhere in the world. That Dr. Lea now holds that seat is what makes this chapter of his career stand apart.

In 2024, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. recognized Dr. Lea with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award at Morehouse College's 140th Commencement — standing on the same campus where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was inducted into the Board of Preachers, the same board into which Dr. Lea himself was inducted. That recognition matters because the President's Lifetime Achievement Award exists specifically to honor people whose volunteer service has strengthened the fabric of the nation — not people who built careers, but people who gave beyond what their careers required. That President Biden chose Dr. Lea for that legendary honor on that campus, in that company, is what makes that recognition stand alone.

Dr. Lea earned a Bachelor of Arts from Morehouse College, a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary — graduating with highest honors and writing his dissertation on the hermeneutics of Desmond Tutu. That academic foundation matters because it means when Dr. Lea speaks about justice, reconciliation, and human rights, he speaks with the theological depth of someone who has spent decades studying the intellectual tradition behind the work. Most preachers choose one degree. Dr. Lea earned four, and the rigor of that preparation is what makes his voice stand apart.

For 27 years, Dr. Lea has served as Senior Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Fairfield and Suisun City — sustaining that local commitment while simultaneously traveling the world, earning four advanced degrees, writing books, and building a global platform. That combination matters because the world stage came not at the expense of the local congregation but because of it. Dr. Lea built something real and lasting at home first, which gave him the credibility and the character to carry it everywhere else. That is what makes Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr. who he is.



*Dr. Claybon Lea, Jr., Senior Pastor  
Mount Calvary Baptist Church*

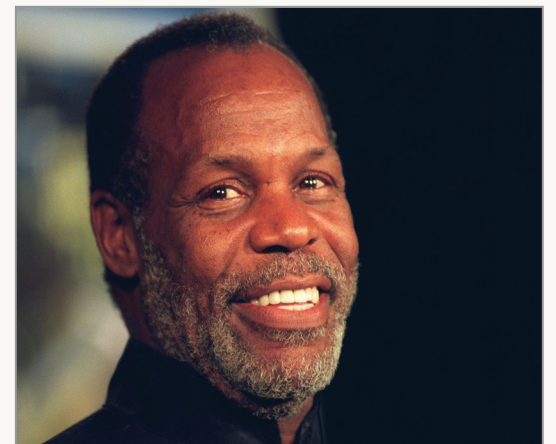
## DANNY GLOVER

Danny Glover was born and raised in San Francisco, the son of postal workers who were active in the NAACP, and he has spent nearly five decades proving that where you start determines nothing about where you end up. He received the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 2022 — the Oscar reserved for people whose humanitarian work has brought honor to the industry — making him one of the few artists in Hollywood history to be recognized equally for what he has done on screen and what he has done off it. That is what makes this chapter of his career stand apart.

Mr. Glover's body of work is legendary because it spans not just genres but generations — from *The Color Purple* and *Witness* in 1985, to the four *Lethal Weapon* films that made him a global star, to critically acclaimed independent work in *To Sleep with Anger*, which earned him the Independent Spirit Award for Best Actor, to *Sorry to Bother You* and *The Last Black Man in San Francisco*, proving that his best work kept coming decades after most actors peak. He has never chased comfort. He has always chased meaning.

Mr. Glover trained at the Black Actors' Workshop of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco — the same city where he grew up, attended San Francisco State University, and worked in city administration before deciding that the stage was where he belonged. That origin matters because it means everything he built in Hollywood was built on a foundation of community, craft, and commitment to something larger than celebrity. He co-founded the Robey Theatre Company in 1994 to develop theater by and about Black people, and served as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador from 1998 to 2004.

Beyond the screen, Mr. Glover has been a tireless advocate for workers' rights, international labor justice, African and Caribbean sovereignty, and Haitian relief — causes he has championed not with press releases but with presence. He has marched, testified, organized, and shown up. San Francisco gave Danny Glover his beginning, and he has spent a lifetime giving back to communities like the one that shaped him. That is the full measure of who he is.



*Danny Glover  
Actor, Producer & Humanitarian*



Conceptual rendering of Candlestick development – for illustrative purposes only.

Rendering provided by Perkins & Will

## June 2026

FivePoint is pleased to join the Sun Reporter in its celebration of **Kofi Bonner** and the other men being recognized this Father's Day season. You all have dedicated your careers to making the Bay Area better for residents and visitors alike.

As the Candlestick development moves forward, are proud to be delivering on a project that will contribute homes, parks, commercial space, and other amenities.

We are honored to be part of the next chapter for the Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco, and the Bay Area.

FIVEPOINT.

# KOFI BONNER

**K**ofi Bonner began his career in California's public sector, developing hundreds of affordable housing units across the East Bay, serving as redevelopment director for the City of Emeryville, interim city manager of Oakland, and chief economic advisor to former San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown. He also became the first African American executive vice president and chief administrative officer in NFL history with the Cleveland Browns — a breakthrough in a league built on Black athletic labor that had never before opened that level of front office power to a Black executive. That foundation of public service and historic firsts is what makes Mr. Bonner legendary not just as a developer, but as a pioneer.

Mr. Bonner most recently served as Chief Executive Officer of Bedrock, the Detroit-based real estate company whose \$7.5 billion platform anchored the revitalization of downtown Detroit and created the blueprint for Cleveland's riverfront renaissance — including the Hudson's Detroit tower and the restoration of Book Tower. That achievement matters because Detroit was a city the rest of America had given up on. Mr. Bonner bet \$7.5 billion on its future and won — and that willingness to invest in a city everyone else had written off is what makes his work at Bedrock legendary.

Before Bedrock, Mr. Bonner served as co-chief operating officer at Five Point Holdings, where he led the entitlement and development of the San Francisco Shipyard and Candlestick Point — two of the most complex and politically charged development projects in Bay Area history. Those sites had sat dormant for decades, tangled in environmental, political, and community fights that defeated every developer who came before him. Without Mr. Bonner navigating those fights successfully, those communities wait even longer for the housing and economic development they needed — and that ability to move what no one else could move is what makes that chapter of his career legendary.

Kofi Bonner is currently developing new ventures in real estate and the automotive sector across the African continent — bringing the same vision that rebuilt downtown Detroit to a continent of 1.4 billion people whose economic potential the rest of the world has consistently underestimated. That Mr. Bonner is now turning his attention to Africa after transforming two of America's most challenged urban cores is what makes this chapter of his career legendary.



*Kofi Bonner, Real Estate Developer*

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The Booker T. Washington Community Service Center is San Francisco's oldest Black-led and serving organization. For the past 107 years, we have nourished the historic Fillmore and Western Addition neighborhoods with a full spectrum of culturally-responsive programs to address the holistic needs of our intergenerational community.

**SWAG**  
Continued from page 2

Jr. statements comes from his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, when he said, “I have the audacity to believe.” Audacity. The nerve. The temerity to think beyond constraints. To take the road less traveled. Or to take a road well traveled and improve it for those who come behind you.

Bob Demmons, the first African American to lead the San Francisco Fire Department, certainly has audacity, resilience, and grace. He transformed the culture of the department, and he had the pure audacity to fight the powers that be and, with his able attorney Eva Jefferson Paterson, implement significant changes in the way a once-rigid institution operated. And to see

Bob Demmons smile is to feel as if blessings have rained on you. With all the challenges he faced, he radiated joy.

Claude Everhart and I go back to Lowell High School, and I have watched his life trace an arc of commitment to San Francisco and its Black community. Claude represents the tradition of Black men who moved from movement work into civic service without losing their allegiance to the people. His leadership reminds us that access to power is not the same as purpose. Purpose is using whatever access one has to widen the circle for others. If there is background music to Claude’s work, it might be Sade’s “Smooth Operator” — not because the work was easy, but because he has often moved with steadiness, style, and quiet effectiveness.

Danny Glover is one of San Francisco’s proudest gifts to

the world, an artist who never mistook applause for purpose. In him, we see an heir to Paul Robeson: a performer whose art is inseparable from conscience. Danny has used fame not as refuge from struggle, but as a platform for justice. His career reminds us that Black artistry can entertain, illuminate, disturb, organize, and heal. Working people sing his praises from Cuba to Venezuela to Haiti and beyond, places where his presence and his words have made a global difference.

And if San Francisco is going to lift Black men, we ought also to hear the music. John Handy, the brilliant saxophonist and composer, reminds us that Black male genius has a sound — improvisational, disciplined, daring, rooted, and free. His music belongs in this conversation because culture is not decoration. Culture is how a people remember

themselves, steady themselves, and imagine what comes next.

To praise Black men is not to pretend that Black men are perfect. No human being is. It is to refuse a culture that too often discusses Black men only in the language of deficit — incarceration, absence, violence, unemployment, threat. Praise is not denial. Praise is correction. Praise is balance. Praise is love with evidence.

The men lifted in this issue are different in age, vocation, temperament, and style. Some lead from the pulpit, some from City Hall, some from classrooms, courtrooms, community organizations, stages, screens, firehouses, and streets. Some lead with a sermon, some with a saxophone, some with a lawsuit, some with a policy proposal, some with a basketball, some with a well-timed word, some with a steady hand on the shoulder of a young person who

needs to know that he matters.

That is why SWAG matters. Style without wisdom is costume. Wisdom without audacity can become caution. Audacity without grace can become ego. Grace without style may be overlooked. But together — style, wisdom, audacity, and grace — these qualities help explain why Black men have continued to stand, build, teach, preach, govern, organize, perform, protect, and love in a country that has too often tried to diminish them.

**Swagger, at its best, is not arrogance. It is history carried upright. It is discipline with rhythm, survival refined into art, joy refusing erasure, and service made visible. The Black men lifted in this issue have given us style, wisdom, audacity, and grace. They have given us SWAG. And in giving it, they have given us reason to stand a little taller ourselves.**

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## FIRE CHIEF ROBERT DEMMONS

**F**ire Chief Robert Demmons left behind a San Francisco Fire Department that looked nothing like the one he joined — a department that was forty percent minority and ten percent women by the time his tenure ended, compared to the department he entered in 1974 where only four of approximately 1,800 firefighters were Black. That transformation didn't happen by accident. It happened because Chief Demmons spent decades fighting for it from the inside, and the fact that the department he rebuilt continues to reflect the city it serves long after his retirement is what makes his legacy stand apart.

As Fire Chief, appointed by Mayor Willie Brown in 1996, Chief Demmons didn't just hire differently — he rebuilt the entire system that decided who got hired. He eliminated the one-day exam that had been used for decades to screen out minorities and replaced it with the H-2 Cadet Program, a job training program that measured whether someone could actually do the work rather than whether they could pass a test designed to exclude them. He also created the Officer Candidate Program, ensuring equal opportunity for advancement at every level of the department. Without those structural changes, diversity stays cosmetic — because a biased exam produces biased results regardless of who is in charge. That willingness to dismantle the system rather than simply work around it is what makes Chief Demmons' tenure legendary.

Before he ran the department, Chief Demmons fought it from the inside for decades. He co-founded the San Francisco Black Firefighters Association in 1972, documented racial harassment, organized picket lines, and pushed a federal discrimination case all the way to a 9th Circuit Court consent decree — a federal finding that the SFFD was in violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. That finding matters because institutions don't reform themselves, and the SFFD had Confederate flags hanging in its stations and swastikas appearing in minority firefighters' offices. Without Chief Demmons organizing that legal fight, no federal judge ever orders the department to change — which is what makes that chapter of his career stand apart.

Chief Demmons appointed the first African American Fire Marshal, the first African American woman Chief Officer, and the first Hispanic Assistant Deputy Chief in department history — firsts that only happen when someone at the top actively decides that the people who were always excluded deserve to lead. He entered a department where four out of 1,800 firefighters were Black and left behind one where nearly half the department reflected the community it protected. That is not a statistic. That is a transformation.



*Fire Chief Robert Demmons, SFFD*

## HERMAN JONES

**H**erman Jones currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and Qualified Manager of Jones Protective Services, a company he built from the ground up after a 30-year career with the San Francisco Police Department. That decision to build rather than retire matters because three decades of investigative expertise and leadership is an institutional asset most people leave behind when they hang up the badge. Mr. Jones took everything the department taught him and built something he owned, applying those skills in service of public safety on his own terms — and that is what makes his post-law enforcement chapter stand apart.

During his 30 years with the SFPD, Mr. Jones earned assignments that the department reserves for its most trusted and capable officers — Homicide, Gang Task Force, Hate Crimes, Dignitary Protection, Internal Affairs, and Fraud Investigations. That range matters because each of those units requires a different kind of skill, a different kind of judgment, and a different kind of community trust. Officers who master one assignment are valuable. Officers who master all of them with distinction across three decades are legendary.

Before he ever put on a badge, Mr. Jones was already building pipelines into professional careers — counseling minority, first-generation, and economically disadvantaged students through the TRIO program in Wisconsin, then coming to San Francisco to help nontraditional students pursue careers in Podiatric Medicine. Those pipelines don't build themselves, and the fact that Mr. Jones was constructing them before he ever entered law enforcement reveals something essential about his character. Service was never a job requirement for Mr. Jones — it was a personal value, and that foundation is what makes his entire career stand apart.

Mr. Jones still volunteers with Rotary International, serves in the music ministry at Nation Takers Church where he plays bass guitar, and remains a devoted father and grandfather to four grandchildren. That sustained commitment to community after a thirty-year law enforcement career and a second career as a business owner is not common. Most people who give that much to a city eventually stop. Mr. Jones never did — and that refusal to stop giving is the mark of a man the city will not forget.



*Herman Jones  
CEO, Jones Protective Services*



***TO ALL THE FATHERS,  
GRANDFATHERS, MENTORS,  
AND FATHER FIGURES IN OUR  
COMMUNITY—THANK YOU.***

This Father's Day, we proudly honor our founder, Claude T. Everhart—a devoted husband of more than 51 years, proud father, lifelong community advocate, and champion for youth.

As YCD's first Executive Director, Claude helped shape the organization's vision of creating opportunities for young people and families in Bayview-Hunters Point. His decades of public service included serving as Executive Deputy Mayor under Mayor Art Agnos, helping lead San Francisco's recovery after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and advancing programs that supported unhoused residents, youth, and working families.

Today, Claude's legacy lives on through YCD and the countless lives he has touched through more than five decades of service. Happy Father's Day, and thank you, Claude, for your enduring leadership and commitment to our community.



 [www.ycdjobs.org](http://www.ycdjobs.org)

 [@ycd\\_jobs](https://www.instagram.com/ycd_jobs)

 [@ycdjobs1973](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ycdjobs1973)

**2026  
WE RUN  
BAYVIEW 5K**

Join us for YCD's annual  
We Run Bayview 5K!

[ycdjobs.org/werunbayview](http://ycdjobs.org/werunbayview)

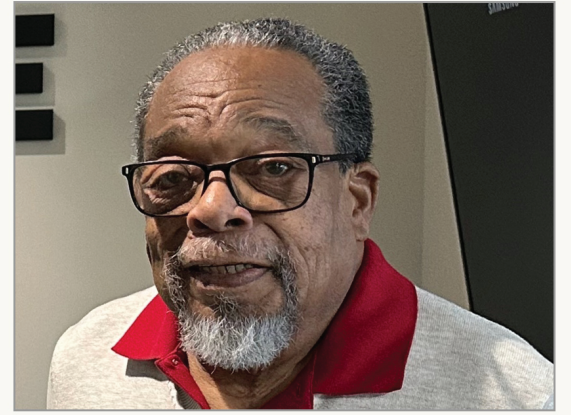
## CLAUDE T. EVERHART

Claude T. Everhart currently serves on the boards of Young Community Developers and the Bayview-Hunters Point Foundation — staying connected to the institutions he spent a lifetime building long after most people would have stepped away. That commitment matters because community organizations don't sustain themselves across decades without people who remain invested in their survival even after the spotlight has moved on. His image hangs permanently on the wall of the Ella Hill Hutch Community Center, where San Francisco keeps the names and faces of the people it cannot afford to forget — and that is what makes this chapter of Mr. Everhart's life legendary.

Jelani House, the internationally recognized rehabilitation program that Mayor Art Agnos' wife founded and named after Mr. Everhart's late son, was visited by Mother Teresa and grew into one of the most recognized addiction recovery programs in the world. That a program born from personal grief became a global model for how to treat mothers struggling with cocaine addiction — and that it still operates today as Jelani Inc., serving single fathers, pregnant mothers, and families — is legendary. Mr. Everhart did not build Jelani House. But the fact that it carries his son's name and continues to heal people is a testament to the kind of man the community believed him to be.

Mr. Everhart served as San Francisco's Executive Deputy Mayor and Chief of Staff to Mayor Art Agnos — and when the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake struck and San Francisco faced one of the greatest urban disasters in its history, he was the man helping manage the city's recovery. He also helped create Beyond Shelter, a nationally recognized homeless services program that set a new standard for how American cities treat their unhoused populations. Managing a city through a natural disaster while simultaneously building a nationally recognized homelessness model requires legendary capacity — and Mr. Everhart demonstrated both at the same time.

In 1974, a legendary career was set in motion when Mr. Everhart founded Young Community Developers — not from a government mandate or a foundation grant, but from the instincts of a teenager who had already been organizing his neighborhood, feeding children through the Black Panther Free Breakfast Program, and running a residential group home as an alternative to juvenile incarceration. Mr. Everhart built YCD because he had already spent years watching what happened to young people when nobody built anything for them. Five decades later it is still serving hundreds of young people in San Francisco — which is the only proof of legacy that matters.



*Claude T. Everhart  
Executive Deputy Mayor, City of San Francisco*

## DR. JOSEPH E. MARSHALL, JR.

Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr. continues to host Street Soldiers, his violence prevention radio talk show on 106.1 KMEL/iHeart Radio, reaching communities across the Bay Area with the same message he has been delivering since 1987 — that young people caught in cycles of violence deserve intervention, investment, and a way out. That Dr. Marshall is still on the air decades after founding his movement is what sets him apart because most people who start organizations eventually step back from the frontline work. Dr. Marshall never left it, which is why the movement he built keeps producing results long after the moment that created it has passed.

Alive & Free, the international violence prevention organization Dr. Marshall founded in 1987 as Omega Boys Club, has produced 295 college graduates — all supported by the organization's scholarship fund — with another 40 members currently enrolled in college and more than 80 who have gone on to earn graduate degrees. Those numbers are legendary because they represent young people whom the city, the school system, and the criminal justice system had already written off as statistics. Dr. Marshall looked at the same young people everyone else had given up on and built a pipeline that sent them to college instead of prison — and he did it without a government mandate, without a foundation blueprint, and without anyone telling him it was possible.

Dr. Marshall earned the MacArthur Genius Award — one of the most prestigious honors in American intellectual and civic life, given to people whose work is so original and so consequential that it defies conventional category. He also received the Children's Defense Fund Leadership Award, the California Prize for Service and the Common Good, the Essence Award, and the Use Your Life Award from Oprah Winfrey. That collection of honors reflects a national consensus that Dr. Marshall found a solution to one of America's most intractable problems and proved it worked.

Dr. Marshall is the author of the 1996 bestselling book *Street Soldiers: One Man's Struggle to Save a Generation, One Life at a Time*, the subject of a PBS documentary of the same name, a trustee emeritus of the University of San Francisco, a past president of the San Francisco Police Commission, and the holder of honorary doctorates from both Morehouse College and the University of San Francisco. That resume spans frontline community work, academic achievement, media, literature, and civic leadership simultaneously — and the fact that Dr. Marshall built all of it while never stepping away from the young people who needed him most is what makes Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr. legendary.



*Dr. Joseph E. Marshall, Jr.  
Founder, Alive & Free*

# Sun-Reporter



A NEWS JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE CAUSE OF THE PEOPLE ✦ 82 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ENTIRE BAY AREA



Sun-Reporter co-founders  
Thomas C. Fleming and  
Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett.

# 82

# YEARS

—1944–2026—  
OF SERVICE TO  
THE BAY AREA



Sun-Reporter Publisher  
Amelia Ashley-Ward took  
the helm in 1996. She is  
pictured with her son and  
editor, Evan Carlton Ward.



Dr. Goodlett with his protégé  
Amelia Ashley-Ward. She started  
working at the Sun-Reporter  
Publishing Company in 1979.

1944–2026

82 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BAY AREA



## REGINALD W. LYLES

**R**eginald W. Lyles is currently consulting on police reform initiatives in Oakland and jurisdictions across the country — work that is legendary precisely because of who is doing it. Police reform is one of the most contested fights in American public life, and most people engaged in that debate have never run a department, never supervised officers, and never been responsible for the decisions that determine how a community experiences law enforcement. Mr. Lyles has done all of those things, which means when he walks into a city struggling with police accountability, he brings thirty years of command-level credibility that no activist or academic can replicate.

Mr. Lyles served as a U.S. Department of Justice instructor on Hate Crimes Investigation and as a Consent Decree Monitor in Providence, Rhode Island — and that second role is what makes this chapter of his career legendary. Consent decrees exist because a federal court has determined that a police department cannot be trusted to police itself. The monitor is the person responsible for making sure the department actually changes rather than simply producing paperwork that says it did. Without someone in that role who carries both legal knowledge and law enforcement credibility, consent decrees become symbolic. Mr. Lyles made them mean something.

He led the development and construction of Allen Temple Arms Senior Housing Phases 3 and 4 while overseeing the management of Phases 1 and 2 — building and managing affordable senior housing for Black communities in a Bay Area where that resource is among the most underfunded and overlooked needs in the entire region. That achievement is legendary because building affordable housing requires someone who can simultaneously navigate city government, construction timelines, financing structures, and community trust — and Mr. Lyles did it across four phases while holding down a full-time law enforcement career and decades of church leadership.

For more than forty years, Mr. Lyles has served as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, missionary to Sierra Leone, and board leader at Allen Temple Baptist Church — one of the largest African American churches in the San Francisco Bay Area. That sustained institutional commitment across four decades is what keeps a community institution functioning across generations, because churches don't serve communities for fifty years without people who show up every week and do the unglamorous work that never makes headlines. Reginald W. Lyles has been that person for Allen Temple — and that is legendary.



*Reginald W. Lyles  
Consent Decree Monitor, U.S. Dept. of Justice*

### *In Memoriam*

## DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT

**C**arlton B. Goodlett co-founded The Sun-Reporter alongside Thomas Fleming in 1948 — building one of the most influential Black newspapers on the West Coast and giving it the motto that has defined this institution ever since: 'That no good cause shall lack a champion, evil shall not thrive unopposed.' That Dr. Goodlett chose journalism as his second career after medicine is legendary because most people with a medical degree and a pediatric practice in the Fillmore District would have stopped there. Dr. Goodlett never stopped.

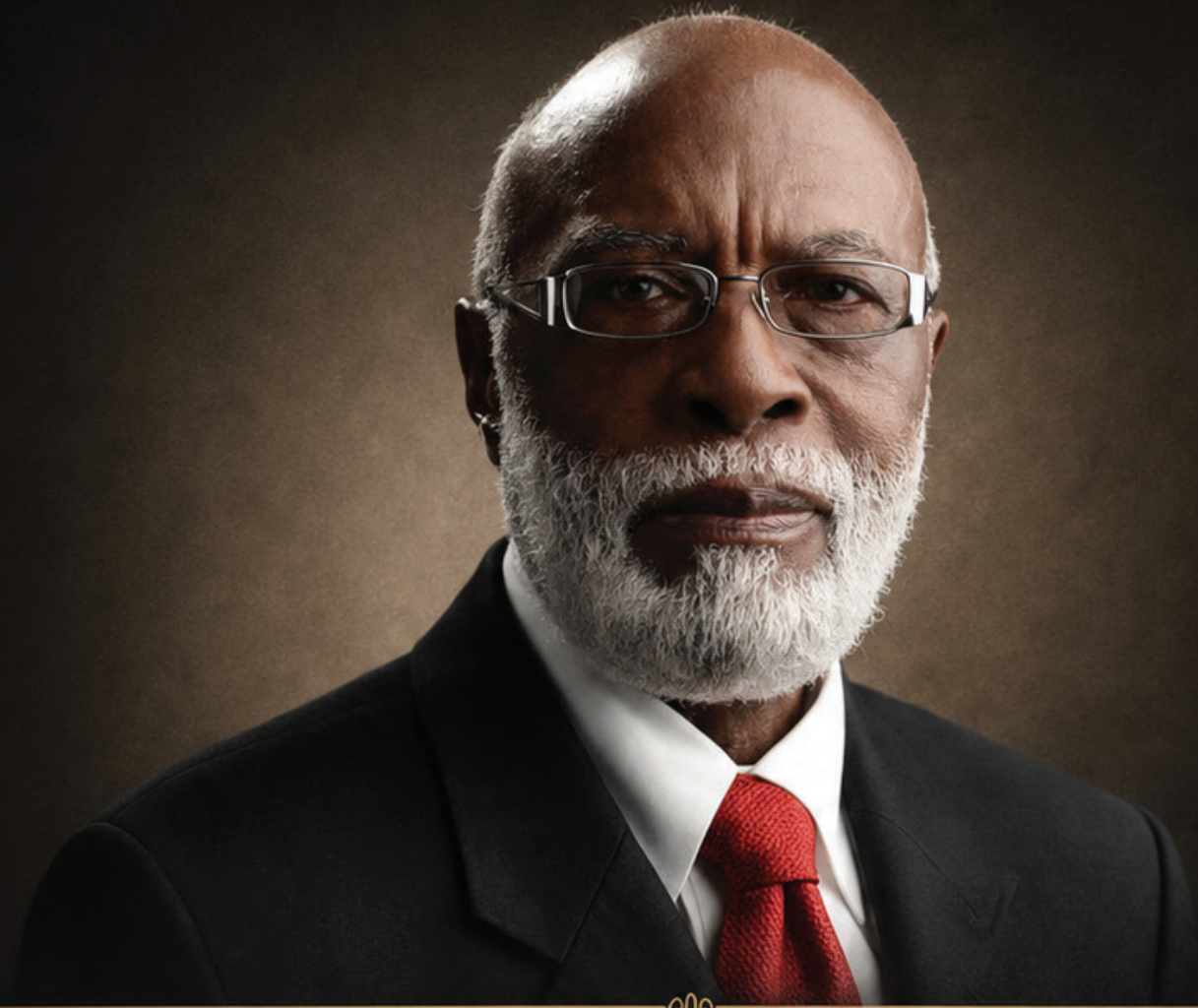
Dr. Goodlett was born in Chipley, Florida in 1914, earned a bachelor's and master's in child psychology from Howard University — where he was student body president and editor of the school paper — then earned a doctorate in child psychology from UC Berkeley and a degree in pediatrics from Meharry Medical College. By 23 he was practicing as a pediatrician in the Fillmore, serving as personal physician to Paul Robeson and W.E.B. Du Bois. That combination of academic achievement and community commitment is what makes his foundation legendary — he built everything else on top of it.

As publisher of The Sun-Reporter and president of the San Francisco NAACP in 1946, Dr. Goodlett fought discrimination in the city's municipal railway, co-founded the San Francisco Young Democrats with Phillip Burton, and ran for Governor of California in 1966 on a platform of racial equality. He became one of the most powerful political brokers in the local and national Democratic Party — instrumental in the rise of Mayor Willie Brown, whom he named The Sun-Reporter Man of the Year and supported with a \$7,500 donation in his first Assembly race. That is what makes Dr. Goodlett legendary.

San Francisco City Hall stands at 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place — a permanent testament to a man who spent nearly forty years as one of the most influential Black voices in the city. Mayor Willie Brown, upon Dr. Goodlett's passing in 1997, said: 'It may be the single biggest loss that the Black community and the progressive community has ever suffered in San Francisco.' The Sun-Reporter was his platform, his weapon, and his legacy — and it stands today because he built it to last.



*Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett  
Co-Founder, The Sun-Reporter*



Congratulations to Reverend Arelious Walker  
and all the legendary men being celebrated  
in this special edition of the Sun-Reporter.  
Our communities are better because of your work.  
Let us fight on, stay on, and love on  
until victory is won.



**Dr. James McCray, Jr.**  
*Partner, Tabernacle Community Development Corporation*

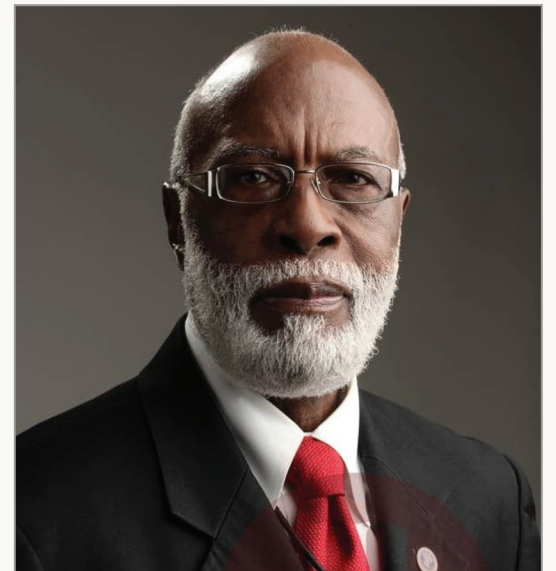
## REV. ARELIOS WALKER

**A**t 95 years old, Rev. Arelios Walker is still working — still leading the Tabernacle Community Development Corporation alongside his granddaughter Lenika Howard, still overseeing affordable housing properties across San Francisco including the Alice Griffith Apartments, the Mary Helen Rogers Senior Community, the Tabernacle Vista Apartments, the Westside Courts, and the Robert B. Pitts apartment homes. That Rev. Walker is still building at 95 matters because the affordable housing those properties represent exists because one man refused to stop fighting for it across more than five decades. That refusal is what makes this chapter of his life legendary.

San Francisco named a street in Rev. Walker's honor — a recognition that matters because streets don't get renamed for people who merely served their community. They get renamed for people who became so identified with a place that the place itself carries their name forward. Rev. Walker opened True Hope Church of God in Christ in the Bayview in 1968 with a handful of members and turned it into the anchor institution of one of San Francisco's most neglected neighborhoods — functioning simultaneously as a drug rehabilitation center, homeless resource, jail ministry, job training program, and political organizing hub. That Rev. Walker built it and held it together for more than fifty years is what makes his pastoral legacy legendary.

In 1983, Rev. Walker organized more than 700 landlords and tenants to march on City Hall to strengthen San Francisco's rent control laws, and in 1987 he gathered 32,078 signatures to force district elections for San Francisco supervisors. Before district elections, supervisors were elected citywide — which meant wealthy neighborhoods drowned out poor ones, and communities like the Bayview had no supervisor accountable specifically to them. Rev. Walker helped change that math. Changing how a city elects its representatives is what makes that achievement legendary.

Rev. Walker came to San Francisco after serving in an all-Black military company in West Germany in the 1950s, trained as a barber, joined the ministry, and spent the next five decades building institutions that served the people most other institutions ignored — visiting inmates at San Bruno Jail, creating thousands of motivational pamphlets, and broadcasting his ministry over the radio to reach people who would never walk through a church door. That foundation of relentless, unglamorous service — built quietly over decades before anyone was watching — is what makes everything Rev. Walker built legendary.



**Rev. Arelios Walker**  
*Executive Director, Tabernacle CDC*

## DR. TOYE MOSES

**D**r. Toye Moses arrived in the United States from Nigeria in 1965, earned a Ph.D. and a Master's in Public Health, and spent the next five decades building institutions in San Francisco that served the people most other institutions ignored. His career spans mental health, substance abuse recovery, criminal justice, and economic development — and in each arena, Dr. Moses didn't just show up. He built something that lasted, which is what makes him stand apart.

For 24 years, Dr. Moses served as Executive Director of the Southeast Community Facility Commission in Bayview Hunter's Point — one of San Francisco's most neglected neighborhoods, historically underfunded, polluted, and deliberately overlooked by city government. That nearly quarter-century of consistent advocacy matters because politicians respond to organized, sustained pressure, not occasional complaints. Without Dr. Moses holding that position long enough to make the city follow through on its commitments to Bayview, the health and economic gains that neighborhood made during those years simply don't happen — and that legendary sustained impact is what defines his tenure.

Before leading the Southeast Community Facility Commission, Dr. Moses ran Liberation House for eight years, providing outpatient recovery services for alcoholics and drug abusers in the Western Addition at a time when those communities were being written off entirely. He also worked psychiatric services inside San Francisco County Jail, fighting for mentally ill people the system had already decided didn't deserve care. Jails are designed to contain, not heal — and without advocates willing to go inside those walls, incarcerated people with mental illness receive nothing. Dr. Moses went in anyway, and that willingness to serve where the need was greatest and the reward was smallest is what makes that chapter of his career stand apart.

Dr. Moses built an institutional footprint across nearly every major commission touching Black life in San Francisco — juvenile justice, mental health, immigrant rights, AIDS, urban planning — while co-founding the Willie B. Kennedy Democratic Club and serving as past president of the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society. On April 19, 1999, San Francisco proclaimed it Dr. Toye Moses Day. Cities don't name days after people who merely served — they name days after people who became so essential to a community's survival that the community itself demands the recognition. That is what Dr. Toye Moses means to San Francisco.



**Dr. Toye Moses**  
*Executive Director  
Southeast Community Facility Commission*



# Building What Matters

Beyond delivering world-class infrastructure, Clark is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for good by fostering economic growth, workforce development, and urban resiliency.

We remain inspired to strengthen these commitments and continue building what matters – in ways that matter – for our clients, our people, and our communities in the years ahead.



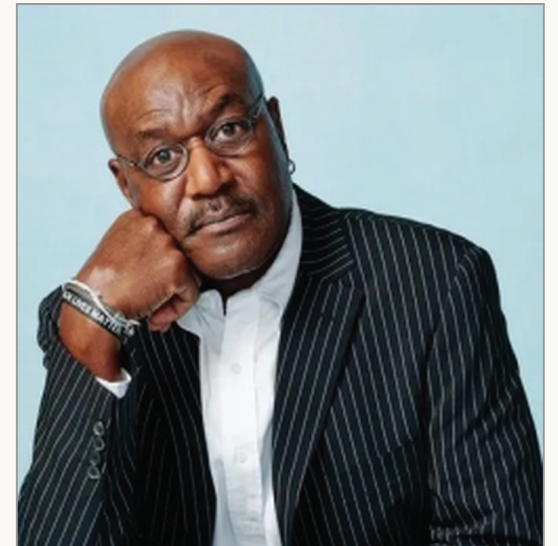
## DELROY LINDO

**A**t 73 years old, Delroy Lindo received his first Academy Award nomination for his performance as Delta Slim in *Sinners* — nearly fifty years after his screen debut and decades after critics and colleagues had already concluded that he was one of the finest actors of his generation. That the recognition arrived this late is not a footnote to his career. It is the defining statement of it, because it means Mr. Lindo spent half a century delivering performances that elevated every film he touched without ever needing Hollywood's formal validation to keep going. That is what makes this moment legendary.

Mr. Lindo's collaboration with director Spike Lee across *Malcolm X*, *Crooklyn*, *Clockers*, and *Da 5 Bloods* helped define some of the most important Black cinema of the last thirty years — and his performance in *Da 5 Bloods* is widely considered one of the greatest acting performances of the 2020s. That achievement is legendary because it came in his late sixties, at an age when most actors have already delivered their best work. Mr. Lindo didn't peak early and coast. He kept growing, kept deepening, and kept finding new dimensions in characters that lesser actors would have played on the surface.

Most actors spend their careers trying to master one medium. Mr. Lindo earned Tony Award recognition on Broadway, became a television standout as Adrian Boseman in *The Good Fight*, and maintained a major film career simultaneously across five decades — appearing in *Get Shorty*, *The Cider House Rules*, *Gone in 60 Seconds*, and many others. The legendary quality of that body of work is not the volume. It is the consistency. Even when Mr. Lindo was not the lead, he was often the most memorable person in the room — turning supporting roles into the performances audiences carried out of the theater.

Mr. Lindo was born in London to Jamaican parents, moved to San Francisco as a teenager, earned degrees from San Francisco State University and New York University, and built his craft on the stage before Hollywood ever called. For Black actors, he represents a bridge between generations — carrying the theatrical tradition of performers like James Earl Jones and Danny Glover into modern cinema while helping create space for today's generation of stars. He is now developing his first feature film as a director, rooted in his Jamaican heritage. Fifty years in, Mr. Lindo is still building — and that is legendary.



*Delroy Lindo*  
*Academy Award Nominee*

## EARL "E-40" STEVENS

**I**n 2026, Earl Stevens — known worldwide as E-40 — joined the ownership group of the Oakland Roots and Oakland Soul soccer clubs, deepening a commitment to Bay Area community investment that has defined his career as much as his music. That same year he performed with Too \$hort at NFL Honors during Super Bowl week, representing the Bay Area on one of the sport's biggest stages. That Mr. Stevens is still expanding his footprint — into sports ownership, into new business ventures, into new stages — more than 35 years into his career is what sets him apart because most artists who achieve what he achieved in the 1990s spend the decades that follow living off that legacy. Mr. Stevens kept building.

E-40 founded Sick Wid It Records and built a legendary regional empire from Vallejo, California — proving decades before ownership became a hip-hop talking point that a rapper from outside New York and Los Angeles could maintain creative control, build generational wealth, and thrive entirely on his own terms. That business-first blueprint influenced generations of independent artists who came after him, because Mr. Stevens didn't inherit a label or get handed a distribution deal. He built the infrastructure himself, from a city that the music industry wasn't watching, which made everything that followed possible.

E-40 changed the language of hip-hop. Words and phrases he popularized have been adopted throughout rap and everyday American speech — a cultural contribution so rare that only a handful of artists in the history of the genre can claim it. His inventive vocabulary, unmistakable delivery, and willingness to evolve kept him relevant across four distinct eras of hip-hop, releasing more than two dozen studio albums while continuing to collaborate with younger artists who grew up listening to him. Remaining genuinely influential across four decades in one of the most competitive and rapidly changing art forms in the world is what separates him because the vast majority of artists who try cannot sustain it for even one.

Vallejo renamed part of Magazine Street as E-40 Way and awarded him the key to the city — recognition that goes beyond record sales and streaming numbers to acknowledge what Mr. Stevens has meant to a community that needed someone to put it on the map. From wine and spirits to restaurants, publishing, sports ownership, and entertainment, he turned rap success into a diversified business empire while never abandoning the city that made him. For Northern California, E-40 is more than a rapper. He is the soundtrack of Vallejo, the proof that the Bay Area could produce its own cultural movement on its own terms — and the city has never forgotten it.



*Earl "E-40" Stevens*  
*Founder, Sick Wid It Records*

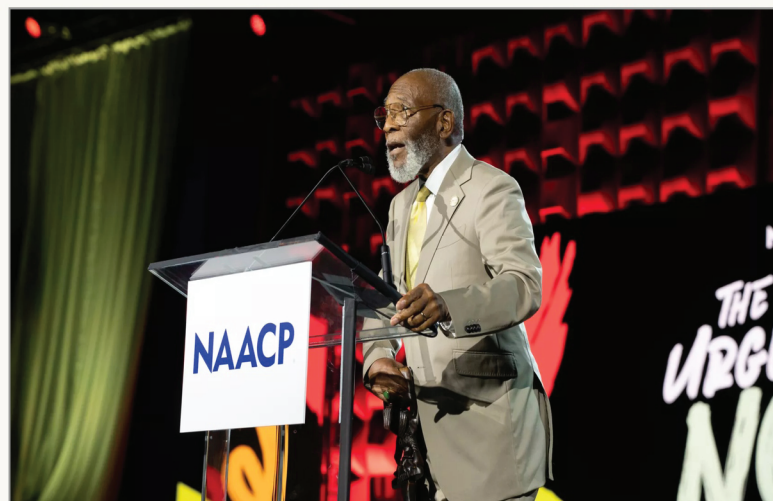
# REV. DR. AMOS C. BROWN: A LIFETIME OF JUSTICE, CROWNED WITH THE SPINGARN MEDAL

**R**ev. Dr. Amos C. Brown will receive the NAACP's Spingarn Medal — the organization's highest honor — at the 117th NAACP National Convention in Chicago this July, joining a distinguished list that includes Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, and Thurgood Marshall. That recognition is legendary because the Spingarn Medal is not given for a single achievement. It is given for a lifetime — and Rev. Dr. Brown's lifetime has been spent on the frontlines of every major civil rights battle of the last six decades.

For nearly 50 years, Rev. Dr. Brown served as pastor of Third Baptist Church of San Francisco — one of the oldest and most consequential Black congregations on the West Coast — while simultaneously serving as a Freedom Rider, organizing voter registration across the Deep South alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1991 in opposition to Clarence Thomas' appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. He served as Vice Chair of both the California Reparations Commission and the San Francisco Reparations Commission, producing apologies from both bodies. That combination of pastoral leadership and frontline civil rights activism sustained across five decades is what makes his legacy legendary.

San Francisco named a street in his honor — Dr. Amos C. Brown Way — and the city's investment in Black communities bears his fingerprints at every level. Through the Dr. Amos C. Brown Fellowship, he has supported generations of students in their pursuit of education, leadership, and social justice. His advocacy against apartheid, his interfaith coalition-building, and his work to address systemic inequities affecting Black communities have made him a figure of global moral authority. Rev. Dr. Frederick Haynes III — his longtime friend, spiritual son, and mentee — will present him the Spingarn Medal at the award dinner on July 22nd in Chicago.

Rev. Dr. Brown was born in Mississippi, came of age in the Jim Crow South, and chose the path of nonviolent resistance at a time when that choice carried mortal risk. He came to San Francisco and built an institution that has served this city's Black community for half a century — and he never stopped. 'I am deeply honored and humbled to receive the Spingarn Medal,' Rev. Dr. Brown said. 'This recognition reflects the collective work and shared commitment of those who continue to stand for justice, equality, and human dignity.' That is what makes Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown legendary.



*Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown addresses the NAACP National Convention*



*Rev. Dr. Brown at the naming of Dr. Amos C. Brown Way, Pierce Street, San Francisco*

## WAUKEEN McCOY, ESQUIRE

**W**aukeen Q. McCoy has just been appointed to the Board of Trustees at UC Law San Francisco — the very institution where he earned his J.D. in 1992, returning now as one of the most accomplished civil rights attorneys in California history. That appointment is legendary because UC Law San Francisco doesn't place people on its board of trustees based on prestige alone — it places people there because the institution has determined they represent what the law can do at its highest level. McCoy has spent thirty years proving exactly that.

In 2008, McCoy argued *In re Marriage Cases* before the California Supreme Court and won — a legendary victory because it didn't happen in a legislature or through a ballot measure. It happened in a courtroom, argued by one attorney who convinced the highest court in California that the Constitution required equality, making California the second state in the nation to legalize same-sex marriage before the rest of the country caught up. McCoy also secured a historic \$132 million discrimination verdict against the parent company of Wonder Bread — one of the largest discrimination verdicts in United States history — proving that the legal system could be forced to reckon with what it had long allowed companies to do to their workers. Two cases. Two verdicts that changed what America owed its people.

McCoy founded The McCoy Law Firm in San Francisco in 1993 and has served as its President and CEO ever since — building it into a nationally recognized practice focused on employment and civil rights litigation. Most attorneys who achieve what McCoy achieved in a single courtroom would have built careers on those cases alone. McCoy kept building. Mayor Willie Brown recognized his impact by declaring September 1st as Waukeen McCoy Day in San Francisco in 2000, and appointing him to the San Francisco Ethics Commission, where he served from 2002 to 2006.

Beyond the courtroom, McCoy serves as President and CFO of Overtime Sports Management Group and founder and CEO of Genuine Sports Group, representing clients across the NFL, NBA, MLB, music, and film. He sits on the advisory board for the University of San Francisco's Sports Management Master's Program, has served on the board of the YMCA of San Francisco, and remains active in Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom. A native of Tatum, Texas who earned his B.A. in Political Science from San Francisco State University before going on to change California law — the record speaks for itself.



*Waukeen McCoy, Esquire  
President & CEO, The McCoy Law Firm*

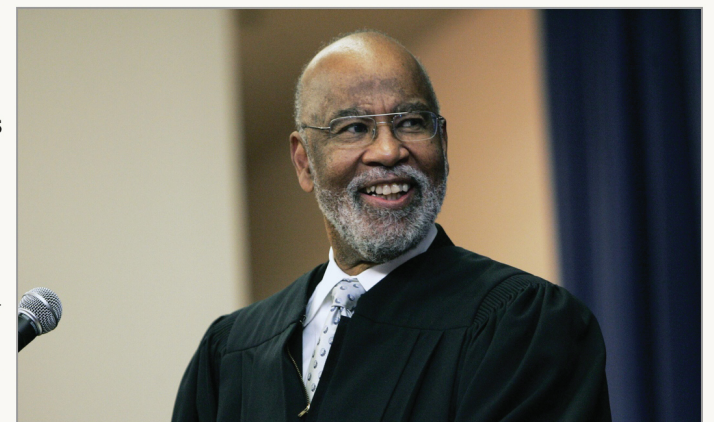
## JUDGE THELTON E. HENDERSON

**T**he Honorable Thelton E. Henderson continues to champion justice as a Distinguished Visitor at Berkeley Law — the same institution where he graduated in 1962 as one of only two Black students in his class, returning decades later as one of the most consequential federal judges in American history. That Judge Henderson chose to spend his retirement years teaching the next generation of lawyers at the school that shaped him is what sets him apart because it means everything he learned across nearly four decades on the federal bench — every ruling, every battle, every death threat — now flows directly into the lawyers who will carry that work forward.

In 1987, Judge Henderson became the first judge in the United States to declare that gay people are entitled to equal protection and due process of law under the Constitution — a ruling so far ahead of its time that it took the Supreme Court twenty-eight years to reach the same conclusion. That the Ninth Circuit reversed his decision didn't make him wrong. It made him early. And the fact that the highest court in the land ultimately agreed with what Judge Henderson wrote in 1987 is what makes that ruling legendary — because it means he saw the constitutional truth before the rest of the country was ready to accept it.

Judge Henderson ordered the Oakland Police Department to submit to federal monitoring following authenticated reports of police brutality, struck down California's Proposition 209 affirmative action ban at personal cost — U.S. marshals had to stand guard outside his home because of the death threats that followed — and sat on the panel that found California's overcrowded prisons unconstitutional, ordering the release of 40,000 people in a decision the Supreme Court affirmed in *Brown v. Plata*. He also issued a landmark sexual harassment ruling five years before the Anita Hill hearings that federal judges continue to cite today. That willingness to make the right call regardless of the personal danger or political backlash is what sets him apart because most people in positions of power choose safety. Judge Henderson chose justice every time.

Judge Henderson graduated from Berkeley Law in 1962 and became the first Black attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice — working alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Deep South to protect voter rights at a time when that work meant risking his life. President Jimmy Carter appointed him to the federal bench in 1980, where he spent nearly four decades saving dolphins from the tuna industry, forcing the Bay Area to meet federal air quality standards, and vindicating the rights of women, people of color, the incarcerated, and the LGBTQ community. The United States District Court for the Northern District of California named its ceremonial courtroom in his honor. That is what it means to be a judge who didn't just follow the law — but changed what the law means.



*Judge Thelton E. Henderson  
Distinguished Visitor, Berkeley Law*



CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE  
LEGENDARY SERVICE LEADERS

FROM YOUTH 1st



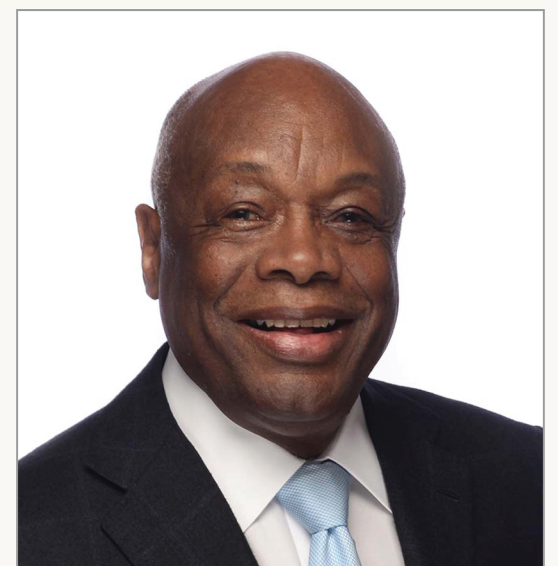
# THE HONORABLE WILLIE L. BROWN

**F**ormer San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown remains a towering force in the city he loves through the Willie L. Brown Jr. Institute on Politics and Public Service at San Francisco State University — training the next generation of political leaders in the city he spent more than four decades serving. That Mr. Brown remains a force in San Francisco's political and intellectual life decades after leaving office is itself a testament to a career so consequential that the city has never stopped listening to him, and that enduring influence is what makes this chapter of his life legendary.

The western span of the Bay Bridge bears Mr. Brown's name — an honor that matters because San Francisco does not rename its most iconic infrastructure after politicians who merely served. It renames infrastructure after people who fundamentally changed what the city is. Mr. Brown spent thirty-one years in the California State Assembly, fourteen of them as Speaker — the most powerful legislative position in the state — using that platform to move resources, build coalitions, and shape policy in ways that outlasted his tenure. Then he spent eight years as San Francisco's first African American mayor, shepherding the city through periods of growth that shaped its current skyline. That combination of legislative and executive power, sustained over four decades, is what makes Mr. Brown's civic legacy legendary.

In 1975, Mr. Brown wrote, lobbied, and passed the Consenting Adult Sex Bill, legalizing homosexuality in California at a time when no other legislator was willing to carry it. That bill matters because without it, gay Californians remain criminalized for an unknown number of additional years — subject to arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment for their private lives. Mr. Brown changed what the state was legally allowed to do to its own people, decades before it was politically safe or popular to do so. That courage in the face of overwhelming political risk is what makes that achievement legendary.

Mr. Brown grew up on the Black side of a railroad track in segregated Mineola, Texas, where violent white mobs prevented Black people from voting and the Great Depression made survival itself a daily fight. He arrived in San Francisco in 1951 with nothing but ambition, worked as a doorman, janitor, and shoe salesman to pay his way through San Francisco State University, then earned a law degree from UC Hastings. That journey from a segregated Texas town to the speakership of the California State Assembly and the mayor's office of one of America's great cities — achieved entirely through intellect, discipline, and refusal to accept what his circumstances said his future should be — is the record of a man who never stopped building, and the city has never forgotten it.



*The Honorable Willie L. Brown  
Former Mayor, City of San Francisco*

# Happy Father's Day!



**Congratulations to all the Honorees who stand up, lead, and serve our community. We appreciate your hard work and dedication and we join you in the fight for a better tomorrow.**

**In solidarity,  
Connie, Ed and Edo**

PAID FOR BY CONNIE CHAN FOR CONGRESS



# AT THE OBAMA CENTER, DEMOCRACY'S TRIUMPHS AND CONTRADICTIONS SHARE THE STAGE

By Stacy M. Brown

**S**tanding before thousands gathered for the opening of the Obama Presidential Center, Michelle Obama celebrated what the sprawling complex represents — noting that it is more than a monument to a former president. The former first lady made sure to acknowledge the country's unfinished work. 'The Obama Presidential Center is a living testament to the power of choice,' Obama said. 'The historic example that millions of you gave the world about what this imperfect democracy has strived for and achieved. And an urgent call to go out there and do it again.'

Her description of the United States as an 'imperfect democracy' touched on a question that has followed the nation since its founding and one receiving renewed attention as America approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For some historians, educators and civil rights advocates, the anniversary presents an opportunity not only to celebrate the country's achievements but also to examine the contradictions that have shaped its history.

A friend once said that America is the only country that insists on grading its own homework. Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence's assertion that all men are created equal while enslaving hundreds of people at Monticello. The Constitution established democratic principles while permitting slavery. After the Civil War, formerly enslaved Americans were promised 40 acres and a mule as part of an effort to build economic independence — only to see those commitments abandoned. Someone observed that the Obama center's 19-acre footprint falls just short of 40. There is no mule, either. The remark drew a laugh, but beneath the humor sat an old wound. The distance between 19 and 40 may be measured in acres, but the distance between a promise and its fulfillment can stretch across centuries.

More than a century later, Frederick Douglass's words continue to resonate. In speeches and writings, Douglass repeatedly challenged Americans to measure the nation's actions against its ideals — arguing that the country's founding principles could not be separated from the treatment of Black Americans. One commentator wondered whether some resistance to racial progress is rooted in a fear that those who have historically held power could one day experience the same exclusion imposed on others. Civil rights leaders, including Douglass, argued instead that democracy works only when rights are expanded rather than restricted. The Obama Presidential Center unites those competing visions.

The center stands as evidence of two truths existing simultaneously. The first is that extraordinary progress has occurred — the descendants of enslaved people have become mayors, governors, cabinet secretaries, Supreme Court justices, and presidents. The second is that progress is not completion. Douglass understood that. Baldwin understood it. Martin Luther King Jr. understood it. And Michelle Obama appeared to understand it when she called the center an example of what this imperfect democracy has both 'strived for and achieved.' Notice the balance — strived for, and achieved. Not perfected. Not completed. Not finished.

'Failing to see the humanity in all people puts us all on a slippery slope, and once that slide starts, there's no telling where it stops,' Michelle Obama remarked. 'A dangerous precedent that flies in the very face of our faith and of the founding promise of this democracy: that all of us — all of us — are created equal. That each of us is a child of God with inherent value. And that no one, and I mean no one, has the right to sit in judgment of who is American enough.'

The greatest danger is not that Americans acknowledge their contradictions. The greatest danger is that they stop acknowledging them. Because once a society convinces itself that its mistakes belong entirely to the past, it becomes incapable of recognizing the new ones being made in the present. History is a mirror — and mirrors are useful only when people are willing to look into them. As the nation prepares to mark its 250th birthday, whether Americans view these tensions as flaws or as defining characteristics may ultimately shape how the next chapter of its history is written.

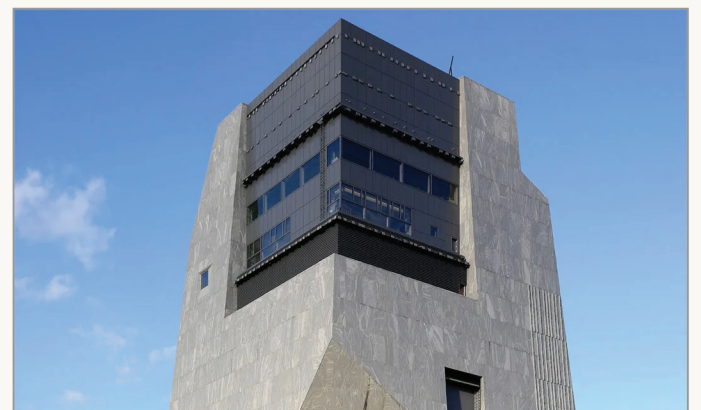
'Hope is all we have, because hope is the essential spark that lights the fire of change,' Michelle Obama stated. 'But hope is a choice. Whether or not we use our voices to speak up is a choice. Voting is a choice. Being a decent human being is a choice. Believing that we still hold the power to build a country that reflects us all is a choice.'



Official portraits of Barack and Michelle Obama by artists Kehinde Wiley and Amy Sherald



The Obamas sit at the grand opening of the Obama Presidential Center, Chicago



The Obama Presidential Center, Jackson Park, Chicago

# STEPHEN CURRY

**S**tephen Curry is currently in his 17th season with the Golden State Warriors, averaging 26.6 points, 3.6 rebounds, and 4.7 assists per game at 38 years old while shooting 39.3 percent from three-point range — numbers that would be remarkable for a player a decade younger. In 2026 he became the first American team-sport athlete in history to earn over \$62 million in a single season, and was named a starter for the NBA All-Star Game for the 12th time. That Mr. Curry is still performing at that level at that age is legendary because it means he didn't just change basketball and walk away. He changed it and kept playing at the highest level long after the game he transformed had spent fifteen years trying to catch up to him.

Mr. Curry holds four NBA championships, two league MVP awards, and an Olympic gold medal — and those championships are legendary not because Golden State had the most talented roster, but because Mr. Curry forced every team in the league to fundamentally rethink how basketball is played. Before Mr. Curry, shooting from 30 feet was a desperation move. After Mr. Curry, it became a primary offensive weapon that every team in the league now builds around. He didn't just win titles. He made every other team change their entire offensive philosophy trying to stop him — and none of them could.

Mr. Curry broke the all-time NBA three-point record and built the greatest shooting career in the history of professional basketball after being drafted seventh overall out of Davidson College — a mid-major program that no lottery team believed could produce a generational talent. That origin story matters because it means every achievement that followed was built on a foundation of being underestimated. The scouts who passed on Mr. Curry in the lottery didn't just miss on a player. They missed on the man who would go on to make their entire evaluation system look obsolete — and that is what makes his journey legendary.

Off the court, Mr. Curry continues to expand Unanimous Media, his production company, securing new development and podcast deals while transitioning beyond his long-term partnership with Under Armour to build a broader business footprint. He and his wife Ayesha are raising four children in the Bay Area community that claimed him as its own. Legendary athletes change the sport. Mr. Curry changed the sport, changed the Bay Area's cultural identity, changed how the business of basketball works, and is still doing all of it at 38 — which is what separates Stephen Curry from everyone else.



*Stephen Curry*  
*Golden State Warriors Guard*

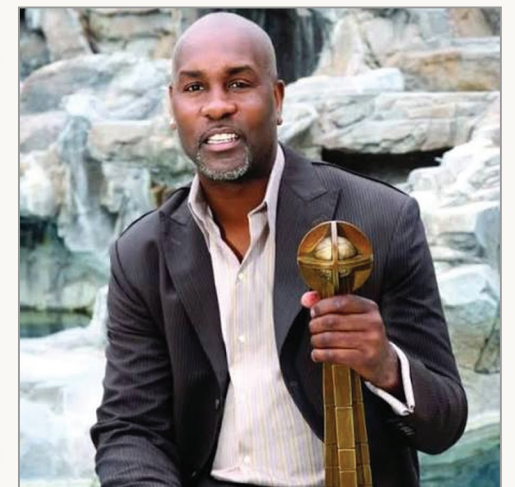
# GARY PAYTON

**G**ary Payton remains active today as a basketball ambassador, mentor, and philanthropist through the Gary Payton Foundation — working with youth programs across the Bay Area while remaining a visible presence around the NBA. His son, Gary Payton II, now carries the family name into a new generation as a key contributor for the Golden State Warriors, bringing the Payton legacy full circle to the Bay Area that produced it. That Mr. Payton built something that outlasted his playing career and now lives in his son, his foundation, and the next generation of Oakland kids who see themselves in both of them is what sets him apart because most athletes leave the game and fade. Mr. Payton never left the community.

Gary Payton is the only point guard in NBA history to win the NBA Defensive Player of the Year award — a legendary distinction because guards simply don't win that award. It belongs to big men, to shot-blockers, to players whose size makes defense a physical inevitability. Mr. Payton won it through pure will, intelligence, and an obsessive commitment to making elite scorers miserable every single night. He didn't just guard his man. He got inside his head, disrupted his rhythm, and made him feel the game differently than any other defender he faced — which is why opponents feared him in a way that statistics alone cannot fully capture.

Alongside Shawn Kemp, Mr. Payton transformed the Seattle SuperSonics into one of the most exciting teams of the 1990s, leading them to the 1996 NBA Finals against Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls — one of the defining moments in Seattle basketball history. He finished his career with nine All-Star selections, nine All-NBA selections, nine First-Team All-Defensive selections, over 21,000 points, and over 8,900 assists. That combination of scoring, playmaking, leadership, and defensive dominance across nine All-Star appearances is what separates him because very few point guards in the history of the game have sustained that level of excellence on both ends of the floor simultaneously, for that long, against the best competition in the world.

Mr. Payton was born in Oakland, starred at Oregon State, was selected second overall in the 1990 NBA Draft, and won his championship ring with the Miami Heat in 2006 alongside Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal — completing a career that began on the playgrounds of the East Bay and ended with a title. For Oakland, Gary Payton is more than an NBA Hall of Famer. He is proof that a kid from the East Bay can become one of the greatest players in basketball history without changing who he is — that the toughness, the swagger, and the competitiveness that the streets of Oakland built in him were exactly the qualities that made him legendary.



*Gary Payton*  
*Founder, Gary Payton Foundation*

*Congratulations*  
TO THE LEGENDARY  
**GAME CHANGERS**  
FOR BEING HONOURED IN  
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- Waukeen McCoy, Esq.
- Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.
- Stephen Curry

**Wishing you more success and  
wonderful opportunities ahead.**

*Kenneth E. Maxey II*

President & CEO



URBAN LEAGUE OF GREATER  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA



# PREACHER. POLITICIAN. LEGACY.

## REV. DR. FREDERICK D. HAYNES III

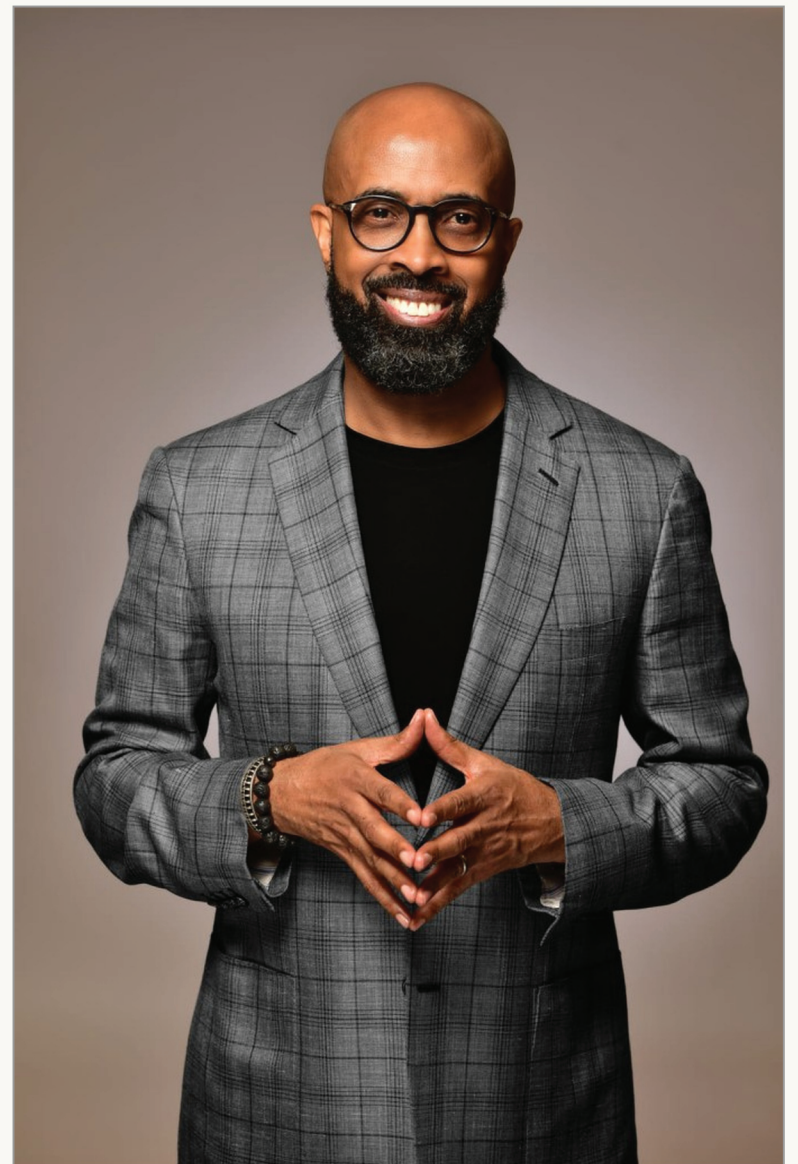
### CARRIES SAN FRANCISCO TO CONGRESS

**S**an Francisco raised Frederick Douglass Haynes III. His grandfather, the Reverend Frederick D. Haynes Sr., pastored the historic Third Baptist Church in San Francisco — one of the oldest and most politically active Black congregations on the West Coast. His grandfather also ran for San Francisco's Board of Supervisors, planting a seed that would take two generations to fully bloom. In March 2026, Dr. Haynes won the Democratic nomination for Texas's 30th Congressional District with over 70 percent of the vote, becoming the Democratic nominee for United States Congress. San Francisco built the foundation. Dallas built the mission. And now Washington is calling — which is what makes this chapter of Dr. Haynes' life legendary.

The legacy Dr. Haynes carries is not borrowed. It is inherited and earned. His father, the Reverend Frederick D. Haynes Jr., continued the family's tradition of faith and civic engagement before passing away on the very day his son began high school — a loss that could have broken a lesser person. Instead, Dr. Haynes channeled that grief into purpose. He became a valedictory speaker at Abraham Lincoln High School in San Francisco, went on to Bishop College in Dallas, and has now spent more than 40 years as Senior Pastor of Friendship-West Baptist Church — growing it from fewer than 100 members in 1983 to over 13,000 today. Three generations of Haynes preachers. Three generations of San Francisco roots. One family that built its legacy at the intersection of the pulpit and the political arena.

Dr. Haynes has built Friendship-West into one of the most consequential Black churches in the American South — donating over three million dollars to HBCUs, building wells in Haiti, adopting churches in Zimbabwe and South Africa, transforming crime-plagued neighborhoods in Dallas, and launching the THR!VE Intern and Leadership Program that President Obama publicly applauded. In 2013, Dr. Haynes gave remarks at the memorial service of President Nelson Mandela at the Washington National Cathedral — the same sanctuary where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his final sermon. In 2022, President Biden awarded him the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award in Community Service. That body of work is what makes Dr. Haynes more than a candidate — it makes him a proven builder walking into Congress with something already built. Throughout it all, he has enjoyed the steadfast support of his wife, Debra Peek-Haynes, and their lovely daughter, Abeni Jewel.

When Dr. Haynes is elected to the United States Congress, he will carry San Francisco with him — the city that shaped three generations of his family, that gave his grandfather a pulpit and a political vision, that gave his father a congregation and a community, and that gave him the foundation upon which everything else was built. The Haynes family has been in the business of preaching and politics for generations. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III is simply the one who made it all the way to Washington — and that is what makes him legendary.



*Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III  
Senior Pastor, Friendship-West Baptist Church  
Democratic Nominee, U.S. Congress TX-30*



MEET REV. FREDERICK HAYNES III FOR CONGRESS – TEXAS 30

# FOR THE PEOPLE, NOT THE POWERFUL.

## AFFORDABILITY

THE COST OF LIVING IS CRUSHING WORKING FAMILIES. I'LL FIGHT RISING COSTS, PUSH FOR TRUE LIVING WAGE AND REAL ECONOMIC SECURITY, AND STOP CORPORATE SPECULATORS FROM PRICING PEOPLE OUT OF OUR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS.

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WASHINGTON ANSWERS TO LOBBYISTS INSTEAD OF US. I'LL BRING ETHICAL, TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE THAT PUTS PEOPLE OVER CORPORATE INTERESTS – CHOOSING ETHICS OVER DIVISION AND RESTORING TRUST IN THE PEOPLE'S HOUSE.

## ACCESSIBLE HEALTHCARE

QUALITY CARE SHOULD NEVER DEPEND ON YOUR ZIP CODE OR YOUR PAYCHECK. I'LL FIGHT SO EVERY FAMILY IN DISTRICT 30 CAN ACCESS THE AFFORDABLE, DEPENDABLE HEALTHCARE THEY DESERVE.

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