

“Give us the ballot, and we will no longer have to worry the federal government about our basic rights.” ~ Martin Luther King



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

May 28 - June 3, 2026

POLITICS

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Colin Allred tops Julie Johnson in redistricting-driven runoff battle of Dallas Democrats

Olivia Borgula, The Texas Tribune



Colin Allred at the Dallas County Democratic office on Dec. 8, 2025.

Photo Credit: **Johnathan Johnson** for The Texas Tribune

Former Rep. Colin Allred defeated his successor in Congress, Rep. Julie Johnson, in the Democratic runoff to represent Texas' Dallas-centered congressional district, according to the Associated Press.

The Democrats were forced into an unusual race between predecessor and successor after Republicans redrew Texas' district map to boost GOP chances to maintain congressional control.

The 32nd District, which

Johnson currently represents and Allred previously represented, is now solidly Republican, pushing Johnson into the left-leaning 33rd District that Kamala Harris would have won by more than 30 points — had its boundaries existed in 2024.

District 33 contains about a third of the residents from the candidates' former congressional district and is currently represented by

Continue **Allred** Page 2

All-boys Dallas ISD school achieves 100% college acceptance

By Molly Schrader



Photo Credit: **Dallas ISD/The HUB**

At Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy at A. Maceo Smith, the Class of 2026, which is made up of 54 “brothers,” achieved a 100% college acceptance rate, with \$15.4 million in scholarships.

The multimillion-dollar total marks the second-highest scholarship amount awarded, paving the way for graduates, including several first-gener-

ation students, to attend elite universities such as Princeton and Columbia and major in fields ranging from theater and finance to mechanical engineering and nursing.

The all-male Dallas ISD magnet school, which focuses on leadership development and academic achievement for young men, is led by Principal Derek Thomas.

“Even though I am proud of their academic performance, I am even more proud of the character, perseverance, and mindset that they have developed,” he said. “This lets me know that they will not just get to college but make it through college.”

Over seven years, the academy has built student character through targeted initiatives such as the Ly-

ceum program, which links students with industry experts, giving them the insights needed to map out their futures early.

“We want our brothers to understand that hard work, meeting goals, and accomplishing tasks should be recognized and rewarded,” Thomas said. “That balance of accountability, exposure, structure, and celebration has

helped create the culture that makes these outcomes possible.”

His goal is for every brother who leaves to feel prepared and qualified for their future endeavors.

With an understanding that their time at BOMLA is not about earning grades or diplomas, these students transform their lives and expand their opportunities.

Freed Slaves Started First Memorial Day in the U.S.

By **BlackPressUSA**
Newswire
and
By **Amsterdam News**

Memorial Day is a time set aside to honor those who fought and died while serving in the United States military. While many Americans mark the holiday by heading to the beach or gathering for family barbecues, fewer may be aware of the different theories surrounding its origins.

One of the earliest known observances took place on May 1, 1865, in Charleston, South Carolina, when newly freed African Americans gathered to honor Union soldiers who had died during the Civil War. These soldiers—257 in total—had been buried in a mass grave after suffering from disease and exposure while being held in harsh conditions.

Continued **Freed** Page 2

Black Women in Rural Areas Grapple with Stark Decline in Obstetric Care

By **BlackPressUSA** Newswire /Ashleigh Fields,
Special to the AFRO

Black women in rural areas are facing the brunt of declining medical services, including access to obstetric care, as new policies threaten clinic and hospital closures.

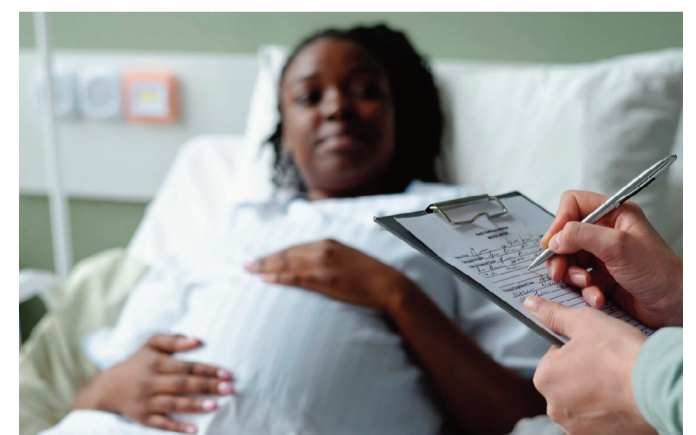
Under the current White House administration's summer spending package, federal reimbursement for services covered by Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act declined sharply, leaving rural healthcare providers to fend for themselves amid pressing patient concerns.

“The risks facing women in rural communities are due to hardship in receiving routine screenings and also access for treatment if con-

ditions/diseases arise. Also, in rural areas there are few specialists,” Dr. Sonya Buchanan, a preventative medicine physician and Meharry Medical College graduate, told the AFRO.

“Most specialists practice in larger cities with larger populations. Commuting to and from for treatment of chronic illnesses or cancer may not be possible for a number of reasons, including financial, logistical, or missing time from work,” she added.

In response to the 47th president's spending bill, Georgia Rep. Nikema Williams (D) introduced the Maternal Health Equity Under Medicaid Act to raise



Lawmakers, healthcare advocates and mothers push for reforms as rural areas face a decline in obstetric care.

Photo Credit: **iStockphoto / NNPA**.

federal matching rates to 90 percent for Medicaid expenditures on maternal health-care.

Nearly 1 in 5, or 20 percent, of rural adults and 40

percent of rural children rely on Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. Amid cost

Continue **Rural** Page 4



Recognizing **#BLACK EXCELLENCE** for 78 Years



The Map That Beat Rep. Al Green

By **TotallyRandie**
BPUSA Social Media Correspondent

On Tuesday, May 26, 2026, Rep. Christian D. Menefee defeated Congressman Al Green in the Democratic primary runoff for Texas' newly drawn 18th Congressional District.

The defeat of Congressman Al Green isn't as simple or, better yet, as clean as it seems.

Republican lawmakers redrew the map, stripping away most of the historic, diverse base of his 9th Congressional District, which he had served since 2005. Green was forced into a newly configured 18th District, where he faced another Black incumbent.

So, yes, Menefee won the race. But calling it a clean generational handoff or a political upset would be dishonest. Green was not defeated in a district of his own choosing. The race was tainted before voters got to the polls.

How the Map Was Drawn

During a mid-decade redistricting push last summer, the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature shifted the 9th District's boundaries into a red-leaning layout in east Harris County. The new lines pulled Green's core voters out from under him and dumped them into the 18th, where Menefee was already the sitting congressman after winning a Janu-

ary 2026 special election. That left Green with two options: retire or run against a fellow Democrat in a district that was no longer his.

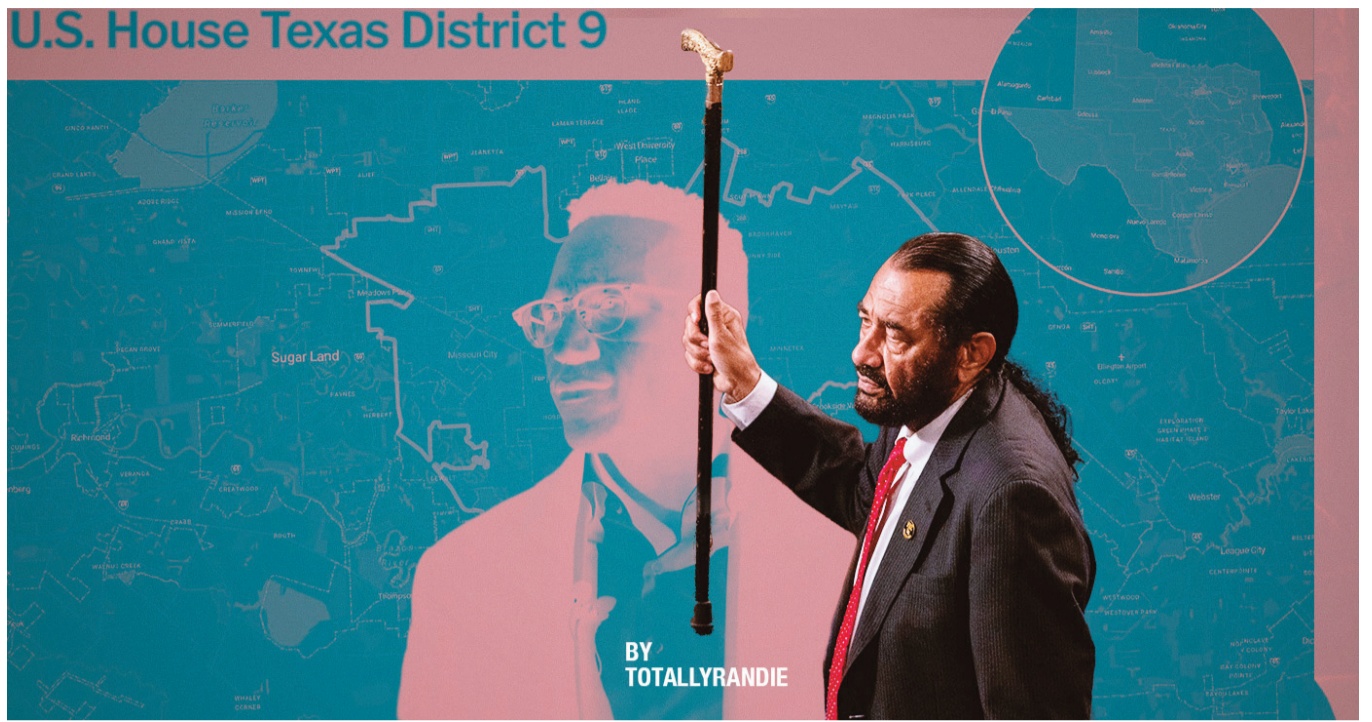
This gerrymandering play is the standard. You compress historic urban coalitions into fewer districts, or you force trusted minority leaders to fight each other for one seat. Either way, the communities that built political power over decades lose it.

And what worked in Texas won't stay in Texas. We are seeing the same playbook already in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and South Carolina. Texas was the proof of concept. Republican lawmakers are testing how far they can go in redrawing minority political power out of existence.

What was Built in Twenty Years

Green's record in Congress matched the work he did before he was elected. He was a Harris County Justice of the Peace for 26 years and led the Houston NAACP for about a decade, expanding its membership from a few hundred to thousands.

In Washington, he sat on the House Financial Services Committee, focusing on fair housing and fair lending. He pushed to strengthen the Community Reinvestment Act to stop



The Map that beat Rep. Al Green / **BlackPressUSA Newswire**

banks from redlining Black and brown neighborhoods. He directed federal dollars into affordable housing in Houston to prevent the displacement of working-class families.

After Hurricane Harvey and the floods that followed, Green used his seniority to direct federal relief to historically neglected neighborhoods that were always last in line for disaster funds. He also brought federal funding to community health centers serving uninsured and underinsured residents across Houston.

Green was also the first member of Congress to introduce articles of impeachment against Donald Trump. That got the na-

tional attention. But it was never the core of his work.

Civil Rights Was his Job

Rep. Al Green co-sponsored legislation to restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. He pressed for federal accountability on police misconduct and hate crimes. He was censured by the House for disrupting a Trump address to Congress.

In February 2026, Green was ejected from the State of the Union for the second year in a row. This time, he held up a sign reading "Black People Aren't Apes!" as Trump entered the chamber. The sign was a response to a video Trump had posted on Truth Social depicting Barack

and Michelle Obama as apes. Trump later deleted the video after bipartisan backlash.

"The genesis of this was the president of the United States portraying Michelle and Barack Obama as members of the primate family," Green told reporters after being removed. "That is unacceptable. It's racist. And we have to confront racism, even when it emanates from the highest office in the land."

What Was Actually Lost

Some coverage will frame this as the end of an era, and in the narrowest sense, it is. Green, 78, lost to Menefee, 38, makes the generational narrative easy

to follow. But what actually changed hands was twenty years of accumulated seniority, committee relationships, and institutional knowledge built around one question that America keeps revisiting: how do you bring federal resources to Black and Brown communities that are historically overlooked?

The redistricting did not answer that question. It just stopped twenty years of progress in solving it.

But what Green built over twenty years is not gone. It is the blueprint for the seat Menefee now holds. Did the people who drew the lines understand that, or did they just not care?

Continued Page 1

Freed Slaves Started First Memorial Day in the U.S.

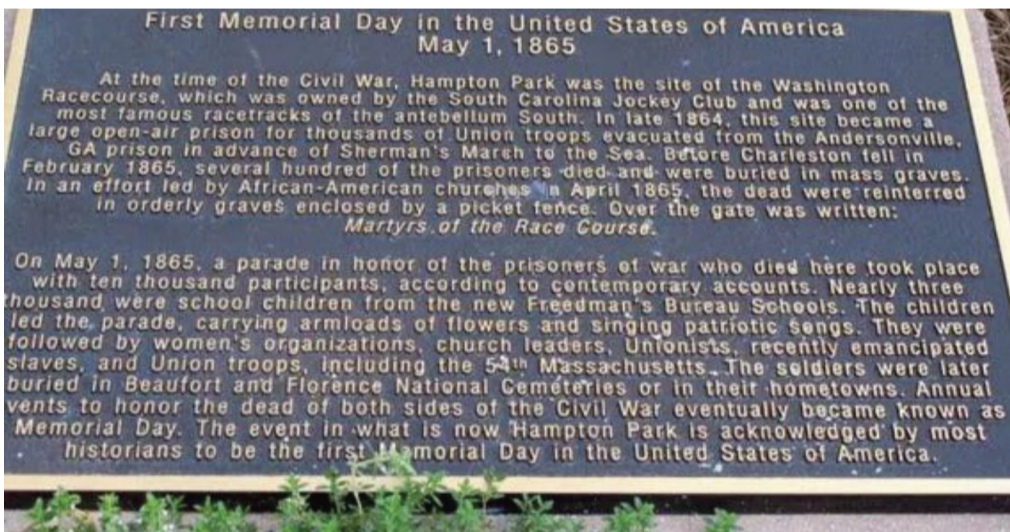


Photo Courtesy: **New York Amsterdam News.**

According to The American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era by Yale University historian David Blight, the event drew more than 10,000 participants. It was held at what had been known as the "slaveholders' racecourse," transforming a place once associated with oppression into a site of remembrance and tribute.

The ceremony was led by 3,000 African American schoolchildren, who marched while singing "John Brown's Body" and carrying armfuls of roses. They were followed by hundreds of African American women bearing baskets of flowers, wreaths, and crosses. Black men also joined the procession, alongside Union infantry and a diverse group of Black and white citizens, including missionaries and

educators. The program included musical performances by a children's choir and readings of scripture by Black ministers. Together, these acts honored the sacrifices of the fallen soldiers, many of whom had not been treated with dignity in life or death.

As Blight explains, the Union soldiers had been "kept in horrible conditions" and were hastily buried behind the grandstand after dying in captivity. The May 1 gathering served as a powerful statement—both of remembrance and of the newly freed community's understanding of the war as a fight for their emancipation.

Participants made clear that, in their view, the Civil War was fundamentally about the triumph over slavery, not merely issues

of states' rights or battlefield valor. This interpretation reflected the lived experiences of those who had endured enslavement and were now claiming their place in shaping national memory.

This early commemoration—sometimes referred to as the first "Decoration Day"—helped lay the groundwork for what would eventually become Memorial Day. It remains a significant, though often overlooked, chapter in American history, highlighting the role of African Americans in honoring the nation's fallen soldiers.

As generations continue to observe Memorial Day, events like the 1865 Charleston tribute serve as a reminder of the deeper historical roots of the holiday and its enduring meaning.

Continued Allred Page 1

Rep. Marc Veasey, who decided not to seek reelection.

Allred, a civil rights lawyer and former professional football player, first served in Congress from 2019 to 2025 after unseating 11-term Republican Pete Sessions. He left his seat to run for Senate against Ted Cruz and lost decisively in the 2024 midterms.

In July 2025, Allred launched another bid for Senate, but dropped out and pivoted to a congressional run after the September entry of state Rep. James Talarico and an unexpected bid from Rep. Jasmine Crockett. He said his change, which came on the last day for candidates to file, was to avoid a Democratic runoff and maximize their chances of winning in November.

He finished ahead of Johnson in the March 3 primary by about 11 points. The nearly three months

leading up to the runoff grew prickly between the two candidates, who each found campaign fodder in the Trump administration's immigration agenda.

Allred blasted Johnson's previous investments in Palantir, a technology company that has worked with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Johnson criticized Allred's congressional voting record, which included support for immigration-related bills where he broke from his party, including one denouncing the Biden administration's handling of the border.

Allred has called to abolish ICE amid the Trump administration's mass deportations and immigration crackdown, shifting its responsibilities to other federal agencies like the FBI, Drug Enforcement Agency and Customs and Border Protection.

He was also the only Democrat in Texas who was supported by an AI

super PAC. Jobs and Democracy PAC, which focuses on AI regulation, spent almost \$400,000 on his behalf. One of Allred's priorities is export controls on computer chips and semiconductor technology to increase AI innovation.

The candidates split support from big-name Democrats. Rep. Jasmine Crockett endorsed Allred at the end of April, while Johnson was backed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries.

Allred will face Patrick Gillespie, who defeated John Sims in the Republican runoff, in November in the left-leaning district.

This article first appeared on The Texas Tribune.

[<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texas-tribune.org/2026/05/26/texas-colin-allred-julie-johnson-congress-district-33-democratic-primary-runoff/" />](https://www.texas-tribune.org/2026/05/26/texas-colin-allred-julie-johnson-congress-district-33-democratic-primary-runoff/)

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RELIGIOUS/NEWS

Earnestly Contending for the Faith The Epistle of Jude Part III



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The marvelous epistle of Jude was written by Jude, the half-brother of our Lord (Matthew 13:55) and brother of James, the writer of the epistle of James. This interesting epistle was written against the backdrop of the prevalence of false teachers in Jude's day. These false teachers had made their inroads into the church!

The wonderful book of Jude may be viewed as follows: I. The Prevalence of False Teachers Vv. 1-4; II. The Prevailing Problem of False Teachers, and God's Past Judgment of Rebellion Vv. 5-16; III. A Pressing Defense Against False Teachers Vv. 17-25.

III. A Pressing Defense Against False Teachers Vv. 17-25

Jude begins verse 17, exhorting his readers to remember what the "apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ" had previously said concerning false teachers. Verse 18 supplies us with the reason why the apostates were mockers of God's word. These apostates wanted to "walk after their own ungodly lusts." II Peter 3:3 tells us that the mockers were scoffing at the promise of God's return. In general, these false teachers in verse 18 are mocking other truths of God's word.

The false teachers who were mockers in verse 19 are noted in three ways: they separate (to cause division), which is an apt description of what these servants of Satan are noted for; they are sensual (worldly); and the reason why these false prophets act this

way is that they are devoid of the Holy Spirit. It seems to me that Jude is informing us to be enlightened by the fact of the prevalence of false teachers!

In light of the prevalence of menacing false teachers, Jude exhorts all believers of this age to grow in their faith (v. 20a). As believers, we must be progressing in the knowledge of our most holy faith. In addition to progressing in the knowledge of our most holy faith, Christians need to pray in the Spirit. "Praying in the Holy Spirit" means praying out of hearts that are indwelt, illuminated, and filled by the Spirit (v. 20b).

In verse 21, a believer needs to keep themselves in God's love and look for the mercy of our Lord. How can a believer keep

oneself in God's love? A believer is nurtured as he is occupied with God's love for Him and is in fellowship with Him. Also, the latter part of verse 21 informs a believer that he needs to be "looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life," as he or she awaits the coming of Jesus Christ, which is the consummating evidence of His mercy.

Since the Lord has shown us mercy in verse 21, we (believers) should have compassion on those who are still unsaved. Since non-Christians are headed for hell, to rescue them from that fate is like plucking them out of the fire (v. 22). Those who seek to rescue the perishing in verse 23 must do so with caution, lest they too be tempted (Galatians 6:1). Keeping oneself from moral defilement is

probably the idea behind the phrase: "hating even the garment spotted by the flesh"

In an astonishing doxology (vv. 24-25), Jude supplies us with an answer to who will deliver us from the dreaded apostates and apostasy so prevalent. Jude proclaims triumphantly that victory over apostasy is found in Jesus Christ. He is the One who will keep believers. He will present believers to the Father faultless and with great joy, Hallelujah! Jude attributes to God – to the only God our Savior, the glory, majesty, power, and authority! God has challenged us in this age to defend the truths entrusted unto us, but He has assured us that He is able to keep us from stumbling!

May God Bless!

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~ THEME: CANDY
(Solution will appear in June 4 edition)

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- Refrigerator sound
- *One of original Life Savers flavors
- Diabolical
- Supernatural life force
- Dust allergy triggers
- Magnesium silicate
- Thor's father
- Audience's approval
- *Coconutty candy bar (2 words)
- Baltimore player
- Dip a _____ the water
- Acronym, abbr.
- *"The Freshmaker" candy
- Deck painter, often
- Flight info
- Russia's plain
- Nat of Jazz
- N in RN
- Across, in verse
- *Inspired by "Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory"
- Under the weather
- Lipase or sucrose, e.g.
- Part of a match
- English traveling courts
- Ones with title
- ___ Aviv
- Sign of life
- Between Phi and Kappa
- *Once known as Chicken Feed (2 words)
- Trollop, in the olden days
- Eyeball rudely
- "I ___ wed"
- Opposite of fires
- Bear's den
- Gives a hand
- Between ids and super-egos
- Symbol of industriousness
- *Dad's ___ Beer Barrels candy

DOWN

- _____ good example
- Like West Wing's office
- 35mm, e.g.
- "Little Men" author
- Mecca pilgrim
- Teamsters group
- "Out of ___, one"
- *Good & Plenty flavor
- It will
- Animal protein
- Is, in France
- Unassuming
- Muhammad's birthplace
- Gallows loop
- *Polished off candy, e.g.
- High IQ society
- Lady's pocketbook
- Narcotics agents
- Light on one's feet
- Relating to Scandinavia
- Village V.I.P.
- Catches one's breath
- Ages and ages
- *Pfefferminz, for short
- *"Taste the Rainbow" candies
- Broadway's news boy
- Ray-finned fish
- Decompose
- Ardors
- Bee's favorite drink
- Like a Druid
- Without illumination
- Place for mutinous sailor
- France's currency
- *Other Rocket Fizz product
- Kent State state
- Do over
- Hatchling's home
- Café alternative

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: CANDY

CROSSWORD

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CONTINUED RURAL PAGE 1

concerns, rural Americans also face geographic challenges that threaten health-care.

Most live an average of 10.5 miles from the nearest hospital, versus just 4.4 miles for their urban counterparts, according to the National Rural Health Association.

“Medicaid is the largest payer of maternity care in this country and must be part of the solution to the maternal health crisis. Too many people are still falling through the cracks in our healthcare system, especially Black mamas who continue to face a worsening maternal health crisis,” Williams said in a statement noting that 42 percent of births are financed by Medicaid.

Still, women who enroll in Medicaid in their third trimester have a 4.7 times higher likelihood of experiencing maternal mortality and a 1.5 times higher risk for infant mortality, according to her office.

“Raising the federal match for maternal care will give states the resources they need to expand care and save lives. As Republicans threaten devastating Medicaid cuts, this legislation is a clear statement: we must invest in care, not cruelty,” the Georgia lawmaker said.

As of 2022, more than two-thirds of rural hospitals in eight states were without obstetric services, according to a Health Affairs study. From 2010-2022, 12 states also reported the loss of 25 percent or more ob-

stetric services in rural hospitals.

“The mass closures of obstetric wings in rural hospitals have been a major issue for years now. In North Carolina, 40 percent of our counties have no maternity care facilities at all. The passage of the Big Beautiful Bill—I like to call it the Big Ugly Bill—will only make these issues so much worse. Labor and delivery units are often the first to get cut when hospital budgets get low,” Rep. Alma Adams (D-N.C.) told the AFRO.

“This bill made major cuts to Medicaid dollars, which hospitals rely on to stay afloat. It also created new restrictions making it more difficult to remain eligible for Medicaid,” she added.

The United States remains the only developed country with a rising maternal mortality rate, according to UNICEF, with deaths skewed towards women of color.

Black women are three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related complications and twice as likely to lose an infant to premature death. Women in rural communities are threatened the most.

All 50 states were granted access to the federal Rural Health Transformation Fund, which provides more than \$100,000 to strengthen and modernize health care in rural communities nationwide.

“While it won’t fully alleviate the burden of these Medicaid cuts, our state will

be using some of these dollars to keep rural hospitals in business and expand maternity care access in our state, focusing on non-medical barriers to care, too,” Rep. Adams said.

“Let’s be honest, though—this is a band-aid to our country’s Black maternal health crisis. We need comprehensive legislation to address it, like the Momnibus Act, which we’re reintroducing soon with Rep. Underwood and Sen. Booker. We need major action soon, because our country is reaching a boiling point, and our moms deserve better,” Adams continued.

The Momnibus Act is a package of 13 bills that address social determinants, mental health, workforce diversification, and data collection, with over \$1 billion in proposed investments to address the maternal mortality crisis.

While lawmakers are addressing issues through policy, doulas have also been stepping in to bridge the gap by providing travel services to help mitigate the lack of care in rural communities.

“Historically, doulas were responsible for assisting those giving birth and midwives and were often among the few enslaved individuals who were allowed to travel due to the indispensability of their services. However, as births moved into hospitals, the non-clinical support system declined — removing an invaluable service for expectant mothers, particularly those within

communities disproportionately affected by maternal mortality rates and limited access to medical care and birthing services,” according to Valerie Rochester, chief health equity officer at Creating Healthier Communities (CHC).

“Increasingly, research suggests that doulas are not only beneficial in better health outcomes, but also in reducing unnecessary medical procedures and, therefore, healthcare costs. A recent study of Medicaid beneficiaries found that women who received doula support had both lower cesarean and preterm birth rates,” she added.

Jacque Souza, a self-employed doula, said families in areas without access to immediate healthcare or concerns about their care inside hospitals have benefited from at-home services doulas provide.

“A birth doula holds space so birth can unfold with dignity. She does not replace medical care but helps mothers make the best decisions when bringing a baby into the world,” Souza told the AFRO.

Doulas also provide extensive treatment after babies are born.

“A postpartum doula also has an important, though often less visible, role. She helps families navigate the unique and delicate postpartum period. Those days when nights are long and the days feel endless. A postpartum doula guides and cares for new mothers during this profound transition,” Souza said.

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Quinn Minute

Middle school smells

By Rix Quinn

I’m not sure I had much sense of smell until sixth grade. The only aroma I remember before that was dinner rolls in the elementary cafeteria.

But junior high was different. For the first time, many girls started wearing perfume. Guys started splashing on after-shave.

The aura in a small classroom was astounding. Imagine walking into a flower garden and inhaling the essence of spring mixed with a saddle and cheese.

The school hallway scents were variable. What

you sniffed depended on which door you entered.

If you entered through the biology room, you smelled alcohol or formaldehyde. If you came in through the gymnasium, you sniffed either laundry detergent or dirty socks... depending if the giant washer was off or on.

Most kids chose the lunchroom entrance. Those fragrances changed, depending on the day of the week. The older the meat supply, the odder the smells.

For example, let’s say

the meat of the week was turkey. On Monday, we smelled the appetizing aroma of sliced turkey and dressing.

On Tuesday, the entrée became turkey and gravy. On Wednesday, the daily special changed to turkey casserole.

On Thursday, there were two selections. That might be either turkey soup or fried turkey slices with special sauce. I never asked what the special sauce was, but I ate it.

But Friday was scary. That’s when the special be-

came Turkey Surprise. I won’t say what the surprise was, but I got surprised twice.

That’s when I invented my own new Friday ritual: sandwich-from-home.

Were you born between 1946 and 1964? Would you like to know more about the generation called Baby Boomers? You can order Rix’s book on that generation today. Just go to this link: <https://www.amazon.com/BABY-BOOMERS-SPEAK-learned-whatever/dp/>

SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, May 21	Friday, May 22	Saturday, May 23	Sunday, May 24	Monday, May 25	Tuesday, May 26	Wednesday, May 27
H -85° L -71°	H 87° L -73°	H -89° L -79°	H -87° L -75°	H -90° L -71*	H - 84° L - 71°	H -84° L -70°

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Atlanta Dream Comes Up Short Against A'ja Wilson and Las Vegas Aces

By Itoro N. Umontuen

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Dream nearly erased a double-digit deficit Sunday, but Chelsea Gray delivered a late game-winner to lift the Las Vegas Aces to an 85-84 victory at State Farm Arena.

The Aces survived Atlanta's furious 20-2 fourth-quarter run after Gray knocked down the decisive basket in the closing moments. Despite the loss, the Dream showed resilience while playing without standout guard Rhyné Howard and veteran forward Brionna Jones.

Angel Reese struggled offensively, finishing 1-for-8 from the field, but Atlanta received a major spark from rookie center Madina Okot. Okot scored 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in only 16 minutes, helping fuel the Dream's second-half comeback effort.

Okot's performance could lead to an expanded

role in coach Karl Smesko's rotation moving forward. Her emergence also creates an intriguing frontcourt dynamic once Jones returns to the lineup.

Las Vegas leaned on its veteran core throughout the matchup. A'ja Wilson and Chennedy Carter each scored 20 points, while NaLyssa Smith added 13. Jackie Young contributed across the board with 17 points, seven rebounds and seven assists.

Atlanta briefly grabbed momentum, leading for 19 seconds in the second quarter and another 33 seconds in the fourth before the Aces regained control late.

Following the victory, Wilson collected her 29th career Western Conference Player of the Week honor, the second-most awards in WNBA history.

The game also showcased Atlanta's growing



Angel Reese stands at the line before taking free throws during a WNBA game between the Las Vegas Aces and the Atlanta Dream on May 17, 2026 at State Farm Arena in Atlanta.

Photo: Itoro N. Umontuen / Black Press USA.

women's basketball atmosphere. More than 17,000 fans packed State Farm Arena for the sold-out matchup. Halftime entertainment featured performances from Bow Wow and

Dem Franchise Boyz. Several celebrities attended the game, including Teyana Taylor, Bernice King, Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, Funny Marco, Ke- vOnStage and Jade Cargill.

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If you need assistance with registering your profile, watch a step-by-step video on how to register at bit.ly/DGtutorialENG.

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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Solution: May 21 - MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES

A	H	E	M			F	I	T			C	U	B			
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				U	S	U	R	P			G	A	S			
M	E	R	M	A	N			R	E	D	H	E	A	D		
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Dallas Lawyers Answer Legal Questions via E-Clinic

Volunteer attorneys will answer legal questions at no cost from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in June, via a LegalLine E-Clinic, sponsored by the Dallas Bar Association.

To participate, complete the online form found here <https://tinyurl.com/DBALegalLine> for the upcoming LegalLine. This month's LegalLine E-Clinics are **June 3, June 10, June 17, and June 24, between 4:00-8:00 p.m.** A volunteer attorney will call the participant to provide up to 15 minutes of free legal advice for your legal issue. **Space is limited. Registration will close at Noon on the Tuesday prior.**

Please note that the volunteer attorney will remain anonymous. Participants should watch for a call from an unknown number that should be labeled "No Caller ID" or something similar. No attorney-client relationship will be established. We cannot guarantee that the attorney will speak any language other than English. Individuals June also receive referrals to local, legal, or social service agencies.

For legal assistance any time, contact the DBA's Lawyer Referral Service at www.dallasbar.org/index.cfm?pg=LawyerReferralService.



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EDITORIAL PAGE

Scared Politicians Are Redrawing Voting Districts However, American Voters Know What's Right

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

It's today, but some people want it to be yesterday. Some would like to turn back the clock. There are those Americans who want to do something that is completely at odds with our value system. What are they trying to do? They are attempting to push some forward and keep others back. There is an evil that permeates the current political and social environment. I grew up in the South, where segregation was practiced daily. Schools, facilities, and businesses were all defined by race. There were certain places that Black people couldn't go. Signs were placed on doors and/or people were standing there letting you know you couldn't enter.

It was stupefying to me that because of our skin color, barriers were always in front of us. Was a monopoly of rights and privileges given specifically to another race of people? What type of psychology is

practiced when you tell someone they can't because you don't look like them?

Racism is a stigma that has been attached to the South for a very long time. Back then, it was more overt. Now, it is more subtle. Some hide it by wearing a suit or a dress. Don't be fooled, it's still there.

Gerrymandering in Southern states is happening now. State legislative bodies are jockeying for position to decrease the number of majority-Black voting districts. Those in charge are smiling as they dial back Black influence in the polls.

Louisiana is leading the charge to eliminate African American voting power. The effort is concentrated and intentional. Until recently, there were two mostly Black voting districts. Now there is only one.

According to confirmed reports, "Following recent legal decisions, Louisiana

currently has only one majority-Black congressional district. The state's previous two-district map was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in April". This district, called the 2nd Congressional District, is

represented by Representative Troy Carter.

All these Louisiana legislative moves have caused unrest among many Black and White citizens. It's clear that it was a ploy to weaken votes cast by African Americans. Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League and former mayor of New Orleans, said, "It will impact how you are seen in history". Unfortunately, most of them don't care about how they are viewed. Character and integrity counted yesterday, and it counts today.

They take cover behind some type of false righteousness. Their constituents are filled with unbridled disdain for anyone who cares about fairness and justice.

How wise is it to create potholes for failure instead of pathways for progress? Wouldn't it be better for all citizens to feel hopeful? I believe it would be.

Redrawing state voting maps that are detrimental to people who look like me is shameful and painful. The state of South Carolina also comes readily to mind, as the district represented by Representative James Clyburn (D-SC) has

been redrawn.

Congressman James Clyburn said, "I was led, like everybody else, to believe that the government would respect what the Supreme Court did two years ago. Disappointed but not surprised". He is South Carolina's only Democrat in Congress. This esteemed lawmaker has been in the United States Congress for over 33 years. He took office in 1993, representing South Carolina's 6th Congressional District.

With all this redistricting posturing, the Republicans are having their way politically and racially. Making it harder to vote and lessening the impact of our vote are their goals. This maniacal behavior on their part is an affront to our democracy.

These methods put forth by the GOP in the South may backfire on them. America is failing its Black, Brown, and White citizens now. Many believe that this group represents a clear and present danger to the future of this nation.

The votes Republicans want may not be the votes Republicans get. Stay tuned and stay uplifted. This isn't how the story ends..

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My Truth

A TALE OF TWO RACHELS

Part 1 Rachel Scott

By Cheryl Smith



Rachel Scott
Photo Credit- Courtesy

It was her birthday week. Being verbally assaulted by the president of the United States could not be the type of birthday gift that award-winning journalist Rachel Scott anticipated or wanted. When she applied to the University of Southern California, focused on becoming a journalist, there wasn't a class that prepared her for such immature and irrational behavior from a person who holds what is the most powerful position in the world.

Sure, we know that in the past, some presidents have been slaveowners, Klan members, and rapists,

but the truthful history books will tell this story of Donald Trump, and people will marvel at not only his ability to get away with so much, but also the silent fear of critics or the support he received from rubber stampers. Where was the outcry over his comments about her reporting or reports that he called Rachel a "b*tch."

When I heard he unleashed yet another attack, I wasn't surprised. That's what he does. And I wasn't surprised that more folks didn't go crazy and call for him to apologize and even step down. After all, he continues to insult and disrespect citizens, especially women, and lean in on Black women. Sadly, too many are afraid of losing status or a job. Some aren't willing to stand up and fight, and they'll do anything to keep the target off their backs.

I will not make this about Donald Trump. This is about US. We the people. Rachel Scott is talented,

well prepared, cool under pressure, and she's making us proud because her journalism is solid. The senior political correspondent for ABC News has weathered insults on other occasions, and she has exhibited professionalism and class. I'm so glad that this newlywed can go home to someone who respects her.

I am so happy that she's receiving expressions of love, whether it be from her husband, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority sisters, family members, fellow journalists, or the well-meaning, sensible man or woman on the street. Unfortunately, some media organizations have tried to call the exchange between the two heated. The world watches as he continues to degrade, deflect, and embarrass this country, while Rachel remains focused, providing a real role model for little girls everywhere.

The president has hurled insults at several women. Black women don't stand a chance in his

presence. Look at how much he has in his Cabinet and working in his businesses. I applaud everyone who is speaking up. This isn't the first time for him, and it is not the first time I have addressed his behavior. He continues to get away with saying anything to anybody, and that is a sad commentary.

I'm not going to say I expect anything from his wife or the countless others who don't have a backbone. They are his accomplices. But not the National Council of Negro Women, or numerous others like Tiffany Cross at her book signing in Dallas, or Congresswoman Jasmine Crockett. It was refreshing to hear Pastor Frederick D. Haynes addressing the name-calling and insults, and the National Association of Black Journalists was another organization that stood up. I know there will be more. There has to be. He is out of control.

Continue **Scott** Page 7

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Booker T. student named Dallas Youth Poet Laureate

By Mariah Conduff



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD

For rising senior Cadence D., poetry started as an outlet for self-expression.

Now, she is the City of Dallas' 2026-2027 Youth Poet Laureate.

Cadence's passion for poetry first sparked during her freshman year at Booker T. Washington High School for Performing and Visual Arts. With the help of her teachers, the musical theater conservatory student participated in her school's Poetry Out Loud competition.

Since then, she earned gold at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics, and advanced to the national competition each year.

"It has been such a fun experience," Cadence said. "It made me realize we should have poetry in our school as well."

That realization led Cadence to establish a permanent poetry presence at Booker T.: the Pegasi Poetry Society. The group was created to explore different poetry styles, share original work, and foster community. The club now has six officers and 25 members.

"Poetry is vulnerability," Cadence said. "This space allows everyone to release, relax, and share their experiences through the lan-

guage of art."

Cadence said her inspiration often comes from the political and economic climate affecting the Black community.

"I see the experiences they're going through and when I translate it into poetry I want to show the hope, respect, and resilience of our community," she said.

As a Kentucky native, Cadence also writes about her new life in a bigger city.

"I was shocked by the energy and opportunities in Dallas," she said. "Everything is so lively, big, and amazing. Everyone is so passionate about their dreams here."

She often writes about Dallas landmarks, the pillars of the community, and the diverse experiences of her fellow students.

Now, Cadence gets to represent the city on a larger platform.

"It's such an honor," she said. "I'm happy I'm the Youth Poet Laureate because I get to help young people understand the power of using their voice."

Cadence plans to do so by collaborating with the Dallas Arts & Culture Center and the Dallas Public Library to lead literacy workshops, perform at events, and encourage students to turn their experiences into art through

Continue Poet Page 8

Ancestry Travel for Black Travelers on the Rise

By BlackPressUSA and New York Carib News



Photo Credit: iStockphoto / NNPA.

Ancestry travel is emerging as one of the most meaningful travel trends of 2026, and for Black travelers, it carries a significance that extends far beyond leisure. More than simply visiting a new destination, these journeys offer an opportunity to reconnect with family history, cultural identity, and ancestral roots.

According to Condé Nast Traveler, ancestry travel is among the leading travel trends for 2026, reflecting a growing desire among travelers to seek deeper, more personal experiences. Rather than focusing solely on luxury accommodations or sightseeing, many are choosing trips that help them understand where they come from and how their personal stories fit into a broader historical narrative.

For Black travelers, this form of travel often carries added emotional and historical weight. The legacies of slavery, forced migration, colonialism, and incomplete historical records have left many families with limited information about their origins. As a result, travel becomes more than a vacation; it becomes a journey

of discovery and reconnecting.

Often, these trips begin with a DNA test, a family story, or a clue uncovered through genealogical research. But once travelers arrive at a destination tied to their ancestry, the experience frequently becomes transformative. It offers an opportunity to stand in places connected to their lineage and to engage directly with cultures and communities that help bring family history to life.

The growth of ancestry travel has been fueled in part by the increasing accessibility of genealogical tools. Platforms such as Ancestry allow users to trace family origins, identify DNA communities, and receive suggestions for "Ancestral Journeys" based on genetic connections.

For people of African descent, specialized organizations such as African Ancestry provide even greater specificity, helping individuals trace maternal or paternal lineages to present-day African countries and ethnic groups. This level of detail can transform a general desire to visit Africa into a purposeful journey centered

on specific regions and communities.

That specificity also shapes the nature of the travel experience itself. Rather than booking a generic heritage tour, many travelers are designing itineraries that include archives, museums, memorial sites, local historians, and interactions with contemporary communities. In this way, ancestry travel becomes both an exploration of the past and a deeper engagement with the present.

Among the destinations leading this movement is Ghana. Through initiatives such as Year of Return and Beyond the Return, Ghana has intentionally positioned itself as a welcoming destination for members of the African diaspora seeking to reconnect with their roots.

These initiatives encourage visitors not only to tour important historical landmarks such as Cape Coast Castle and Elmina Castle but also to immerse themselves in Ghana's contemporary cultural and creative landscape. By doing so, the country offers a powerful model for how heritage tourism can foster lasting connections between Africa

and its global diaspora.

Ancestry travel aligns with several broader travel trends shaping 2026. It reflects the demand for more personalized itineraries, deeper cultural context, and experiences that feel emotionally meaningful rather than transactional. These journeys often inspire travelers to spend more time in a destination and to engage more intentionally with local history and communities.

For Black travelers, the appeal is especially profound. An ancestry trip can be historical, educational, cultural, and deeply personal all at once. It provides something that conventional tourism often cannot: the opportunity to place oneself within a larger story that spans continents, generations, and centuries.

As genealogical tools become more accessible, destinations become better equipped to welcome diaspora travelers, and interest in meaningful travel continues to grow, ancestry travel is poised to play an increasingly important role in how Black travelers explore the world in 2026 and beyond.

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Continued Scott Page 6

Over the years, I remember other women who were assaulted by Donald Trump. April Ryan, who is now the longest-serving Black female White House correspondent, had to hire protection after Trump made her a target. And, we must include the name "Epstein" when talking about this president's disgusting behavior.

Some have asked how we can fight back. We can all arm ourselves with something that so many are

trying to take away from us — our vote. There are elections across this country, and if you vote for people who support the madness, the madness will continue. Show some love for Rachel and the many other women who are being attacked by not just Donald Trump, but by the silent ones who don't have the guts, backbone, love, or intelligence to say enough is enough.

I'm calling on all people of conscience to use their vote in every election. Send those clowns home unemployed — the more you hurt

them, the more you neuter Trump. Dear Rachel, don't be discouraged and know that you are not alone. Many of us are praying for and working to protect your peace. You asked a valid question of Donald Trump as he focuses on distractions instead of focusing on what's really important. Keep doing your job. You are the person who will be in History books. Your story will be told, and just know the world is a better place because of you. That's not what will be said about Donald Trump!

HEALTH

Your Mental Health Matters

Taking care of your mind is just as important as taking care of your body. The 2025 Dallas County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) shows why mental health matters now more than ever. People who live in 60% of Dallas County ZIP Codes reported worsening mental health, and more than 15% of residents said they struggled with mental health between 2022 and 2025.

Many adults say they feel stressed, anxious, or depressed. Young people are also facing more mental health challenges, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. Families across the county are dealing with worry, sadness, and feeling overwhelmed.

Some people do not have insurance to help pay for mental health treatment. Others are not sure where to go for help. There is also still fear or stigma around talking about mental health. These barriers can stop people from getting the care they need.

That is why the CHNA is so important. Parkland Health and Dallas County Health and Human Services use it to better understand the community's biggest health needs. The CHNA uses real data to guide plans and improve care for everyone.

Help is available, and you are not alone.

Mental health is health. If you or someone you love needs help, now is the time to reach out.

Talking to a doctor or counselor can make a big difference. Simple steps like getting enough sleep, going for a walk, or speaking with someone you trust can help improve how you feel.

At Parkland, we are working to make it easier to find and access mental health treatment, including through our community clinics, virtual visits, and community programs.

Read more about the findings in the 2025 Dallas County CHNA by visiting www.parklandhealth.org/dallas-community-health

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IN MEMORIAM: Rest in Power: Hip-Hop Legend Rob Base Dead at 59

By BlackPressUSA and MSR News Online



Rest in Power, Rob Base: The Voice Behind It Takes Two Has Passed Away at 59. Photo Credit: NNPA.

Rob Base, born Robert Ginyard and one half of the legendary hip-hop duo Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock, passed away peacefully on

May 22, 2026, at age 59 after a private battle with cancer, leaving behind a legacy rooted in the 1988 anthem It Takes Two and a

pioneering role in bringing hip-hop and house music to mainstream audiences. Hip-hop has lost one of its foundational voices.

Rob Base, born Robert Ginyard and one half of the legendary duo Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock, passed away peacefully on Friday, May 22, 2026, surrounded by family after a private battle with cancer. He was 59 years old, having celebrated his birthday just four days before his death.

His family announced the news on his Instagram page. “Rob’s music, energy, and legacy helped shape a generation and brought joy to millions around the world,” the statement read. “Beyond the stage, he was a loving father, family man, friend, and creative force whose impact will never be forgotten. Thank you for the music, the memories, and the moments that became the soundtrack to our lives.”

A Harlem Legacy That Reached Millions

Rob Base grew up in Harlem, New York, where he met his future partner DJ E-Z Rock in the fifth grade. Together they built a rap career from the ground up, recording early demos before breaking through with one of the most recognizable songs in hip-hop history.

Their 1988 hit It Takes Two was a genre-crossing phenomenon, blending rap, dance, and sampled funk grooves into a high-energy anthem that crossed over to mainstream audiences in a way few records had done before. The track reached No. 36 on the Billboard Hot 100 and has since been sampled by artists including Snoop Dogg and The Black Eyed Peas, and was certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America. The duo also charted with Joy and Pain and Get on the Dance Floor.

For Black communities across the country, It Takes Two was more than a song. It was a moment, a feeling, and a memory tied to block parties, cookouts, roller rinks, and living rooms from coast to coast. If you grew up Black in the late 1980s or early 1990s, that record was part of the soundtrack of your life.

A Pioneer Who Helped Shape the Sound

Alongside DJ E-Z Rock, Rob Base was instrumental in cross-pollinating hip-hop and house music and bring-

ing them to the mainstream in the 1980s. His influence on the genre extended far beyond chart positions. He helped prove that hip-hop could fill dance floors and reach audiences that had never heard the music before, opening doors that generations of artists would walk through after him.

DJ E-Z Rock, whose real name was Rodney Bryce, passed away in 2014 from complications related to diabetes. The two had been friends since childhood, and Rob Base spoke often about the bond they shared. “He was a good DJ, but everybody just loved him for who he was,” Base once said. “Just a funny guy.”

Rob Base’s final public statement came just days before his death, when he marked his 59th birthday with a post to Instagram. “Happy 59th birthday to me. God thank you for allowing me to see another year,” he wrote.

He will be remembered not just for the records but for the joy he gave to an entire generation. Rest in Power, Rob Base.

Food from the Bar Campaign Provides 640,000 Meals for North Texas Children This Summer

Legal community rallies behind North Texas Food Bank to address seasonal hunger.



Food from the Bar participants celebrate helping the North Texas Food Bank provide 640,000 summer meals for children and families, bringing the total to more than 3 million meals raised since the campaign began. (First Row) Johnny Jenkins – North Texas Food Bank, Cruz Vasquez - Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Madelyn Dunkle - Dean Omar Branham & Shirley, Estella Segovia - Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, Brandy Bloyed - Simon Greenstone Panatier, PC, Trisha Cunningham – North Texas Food Bank, (Second Row), TyLynn Payne - Bell Nunnally & Martin, Christy Hester – Dallas Trial Lawyers Association, Olivia Steadman - Bell Nunnally & Martin, Allison Minter - Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel, Christi Dutton - Simon Greenstone Panatier, PC, Jonathan Childers - Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann, (Third Row), Wendy McKnight - Bank of America Legal Dept., Kathryn Ferguson - Walters, Balido & Crain, John Roper – Dallas Bar Association, Richard Stucky and Al Ellis – Dallas Trial Lawyers Association.

DALLAS, TX - May 22, 2026 — The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) and the North Texas legal community wrapped up another impactful Food from the Bar campaign this spring, generating the equivalent of 640,000 nutritious meals for children and families who face heightened food insecurity during the summer months. As schools close and access to free and reduced-price meals declines, law firms and legal departments across the region stepped forward with donations, food drives, and volunteer hours to help fill the gap. Since its launch in 2019, the campaign has now provided more than 3 million meals.

“This campaign shows what happens when a community uses its collective influence for good,” said Johnny Jenkins, strategic initiatives manager for the North Texas Food Bank. “Every firm that participated helped ensure that kids across North Texas have the nourishment they need during a season when many families feel the strain most acutely. Their leadership is making a tangible difference.”

This year’s effort raised \$208,578, collected 3,947 pounds of food, and contributed 212 volunteer hours. The campaign concluded with a recognition event in May honoring standout participants:

- Partner 4 Hope Award (Top Team Per Capita) – Simon Greenstone Panatier PC
- Power of Attorney Award (Top Team Overall) – Dallas Trial Lawyers Association
- New Counsel Award – Walters Balido & Crain Haynes & Boone
- #RaiseTheBar Award (Most Active Social Media Campaign) – Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel
- Can-Do Award (Most Food Collected) – Bank of America Legal Department
- Collective Force Award (Most Volunteers) – Waters Kraus Paul & Siegel
- Broadest Appeal Award (Most Diverse Involvement) – The Law Offices of Dean Omar Branham & Shirley

“We are deeply grateful for the legal community’s commitment to standing with children and families during the toughest months of the year,” said Trisha Cunningham, president and CEO of the North Texas Food Bank. “Their generosity helps us respond to a growing need in our region. With Texas again leading the nation in food insecurity and 1.3 million of our North Texas neighbors facing hunger — including one in five children — this support ensures kids can enjoy their summer with the healthy meals they deserve.”

Participating firms and organizations included:

- Akin Gump
- Bank of America Legal Department
- Byrd Adatto
- Bar Committee for Community Involvement
- Carter Arnett Bennett & Perez
- Dallas Bar Association
- Dallas Trial Lawyers Association
- Dean, Omar, Branham & Shirley, LLP
- Fulton Jeang
- Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher
- Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
- Kershaw Anderson King
- PepsiCo, Inc.
- Quilling Selander Lownds Winslett & Moser
- Sheppard Mullin & Dedman School of Law
- Simon Greenstone Panatier, PC
- Vinson & Elkins
- Walters, Balido & Crain Attorneys at Law
- Waters, Kraus, & Paul

Originally launched as Partners 4 Hope, the campaign was rebranded as Food from the Bar in 2024 to reflect its expanded collaboration with legal associations, including the Dallas Bar Association and the Dallas Trial Lawyers Association.

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poetry and creative writing.
“Literacy is the foundation of our world, so you have to know how to read and write to truly express yourself,” she said.
Cadence believes poetry and art can help students better understand history through the voices and experiences of those living it.
“This is why we need

more poets, artists, and storytellers so we can truly see what’s happening through their eyes,” she said.
As she prepares for her senior year, Cadence is unsure whether she will continue musical theatre in college or pursue a career in law to uplift her community. Regardless of where life takes her, she said poetry will always remain part of who she is.

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