

**“HAPPY FATHER’S DAY, TO ALL FATHERS”
and
“HAPPY JUNETEENTH TO ALL”**



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SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

June 18 - 24, 2026

JUNETEENTH !!!

“Juneteenth means freedom for so many people, for so many reasons. I try to get people to understand it’s not a Texas thing, is not a Black thing — it’s freedom for everybody. I’m hoping, eventually, we will celebrate from the 19th of June to the Fourth of July; that would be celebrating freedom.”

- Opal Lee, The Grandmother of Juneteenth

OP-ED: Juneteenth, America at 250, and the Hole in the Soul of Our Democracy

By BlackPressUSA Newswire, and By Wade Henderson



John Lewis / Photo Credit: NNPA Files

As Americans prepare to celebrate Juneteenth and the 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, we should take pride in the extraordinary progress our country has made toward becoming a more perfect union. But these mile-

stones also demand honesty. They require us to confront the Supreme Court’s recent gutting of the Voting Rights Act, one of the most consequential civil rights laws ever enacted, as well as another glaring contradiction that remains

a hole in the soul of America: more than 700,000 citizens living in the nation’s capital are still denied full voting representation in Congress.

Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved Black Americans in Texas finally learned

they were free—more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation. It is a reminder that freedom delayed is freedom denied, and that America has too often failed to extend its promises equally to all its people.

The residents of Washington, D.C., know that reality all too well.

The citizens of the District pay federal taxes, serve on juries, own businesses, volunteer in their communities, and fight in America’s wars. More than 200,000 veterans call the District home. D.C. residents contribute billions of dollars annually to the federal treasury. Yet they have no voting representation in either chamber of Congress. They are governed by lawmakers they cannot elect and whose decisions they cannot ultimately influence through the ballot box.

That reality violates the fundamental democratic principle that has defined our nation since its birth: no taxation without representation.

As America marks its semi-quintennial in 2026, we should ask a simple question: How can the world’s leading democracy justify denying full democratic rights to more than 700,000 of its own citizens?

The population of the District exceeds that of Wyoming and Vermont and is comparable to several other states. Yet residents of those states enjoy two U.S. senators and voting representation in the House of Representatives. The citizens of Washington, D.C., do not.

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Dallas ISD advances across STAAR performance levels

DALLAS — Preliminary results from the latest State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness show Dallas ISD students are making meaningful academic gains across grade levels and subjects.

In addition to growth on grade-level assessments, Dallas ISD students scored at or above the state average in several STAAR End-of-Course categories.

These results were recently presented to the Board of Trustees at the latest briefing.

“This is something to really be proud of – kudos to the leadership team for executing from top down,” said Trustee Byron Sanders. “We’re innovating. We’re moving forward, and no one is resting on our laurels. We all see and notice this growth.”

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Our Repsonse To Trump's DEI Budget Cuts

By: **Dr. John E. Warren**, Publisher
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper
Chairman of the Board of Directors, NNPA



Dr. John E. Warren

It is an established fact that President Donald Trump is out to erase Black history and all our contributions to this America now preparing to celebrate 250 years. As programs and dollars continue to vanish, too many of us are concerned about the loss of Federal dollars that have financed so many of our projects. The real issue is not how much are we losing in programs and dollars, but rather what are we willing to do to replace those losses? Let us not

forget that Black people spend over \$4 trillion a year in this country. The question is not whether we have money, but rather what we are willing to adjust our spending on so that we can finance our own programs and projects?

Did we not use our churches as places of learning and cultural interaction before government grants became available? Our churches need to

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What Factors Have Led Us Not to Know the People In Our Neighborhood?

By James B. Ewers Jr., Ed.



Dr. James Ewers

Being in the summer months made me muse on my upbringing in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. That was a care-free time in my life. The days were long and the nights were short.

After breakfast, my friends and I stayed outside most of the day. If we weren't playing too much, I would come home for lunch. It was the same routine for all the kids in my East Winston neighborhood. Everybody knew their next-door neighbor and those in the neighborhood. Locked doors weren't the custom, and snacks were always available for us. We felt loved and always welcomed. However, our parents did tell us not to wear out our welcome.

During the evening,

adults would visit or sit on their porch. We kids would be together until the streetlights came on, and that was our signal to come inside. The day was over, and we would start the next day afresh.

The joy that we had was unspeakable. The friendships we made in childhood are now adult friendships. I took knowing my friends and neighbors for granted. I just thought that all neighborhoods were like mine. Back in the day, I believe they were. I mean, how could you live in a community and not know your neighbors?

Knowing people on your side of town was a mainstay for us. Our parents never feared for our safety or well-being. We were always in and out of someone's house, and it wasn't a big deal.

During my time, kids talked a lot. Quite honestly, we could take or leave television. TV and radio didn't really strike a chord with us. Even when we did

watch television, it wasn't a topic of conversation. In a funny way, we left Pop-eye and Mickey Mouse in the house.

Now, my friends and I have some heartfelt conversations about the good times that we had as kids. We know that we were blessed. We realize how fortunate we were to have grown up in a neighborhood that was surrounded by love. Our childhood experiences shaped our lives as adults.

How we talk to others and our level of kindness were all learned behaviors. We watched our elders, and we learned from them. Now, we are the elders in our communities.

What is happening in today's neighborhoods is a lot different. Cordiality and kindness aren't practiced as much. The current societal climate has given us a less friendly environment. Simply put, we are a bit suspicious of our neighbors.

Neighbors don't visit as

much as they once did. Children don't visit much either. I will say that children now have what are called play dates. These are pre-arranged by parents and sometimes money is involved.

Of course, we didn't have those experiences. All our playing was spontaneous. We just gathered and started playing. Money wasn't involved.

Technology has played a big role in neighbors keeping to themselves. I guess being on Facebook is better than sitting and talking to each other in person. Children would rather talk and text on their cell phones than play outside.

Some experts think that staying inside and being aloof are signs of mistrust. Additionally, they believe that some people have gotten accustomed to being unfriendly. I watch some folks in department stores, and they have frowns on their faces. Have we lost

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Page 1

reestablish Food Pantries and Libraries; programs for our children and seniors. We seemed too concerned about creating non-profits rather than using our own dollars to finance what we need and releasing some of what we want. We still have to test those coming to us for help. Not everyone is honest, neither is everyone a crook or thief. As a matter of fact, not every church is church-worthy. As the Bible says, we "must try the spirits" to know who and what we are dealing with.

Bottomline. We defeat Trump by going to the polls and voting our interests. We defeat those who support and think like Trump by not placing them in office. And, we defeat Trump and those who think like and support him by putting our votes and our dollars together as we prepare now for November's General Election. Let's not be distracted by Iran, Epstein or Trump. Our focus right now is the Governor's race, Congressional and Senate Seats and reclaiming our share of this dream.

RELIGIOUS/NEWS

The Apostle John's Letter to the Ephesians Church

Revelation 2:1-7



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

Each letter to the seven churches of Asia Minor is addressed to the angel or messenger. The messenger most likely has a reference to the pastor of the church. Each letter is addressed to a particular church and "may be outlined under six headings: "Destination, The Lord, Commendation, Condemnation, Exhortation, Promise" (Revelation, Dr. Charles Caldwell Ryrie, pg. 21).

Destination (Revelation 2:1)

Ephesus, the first church addressed, was a major city of Asia Minor, Capital of Asia, and an important Seaport. In Ephesus, was the Temple of Artemis, Diana, (Acts 19:24, 27-28, 34-35), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The Ephesian church had a strong influence in

the Asian area. Paul established the Ephesian church during his third Missionary Journey (Acts 19).

The Lord (Revelation 2:1)

The One sending the letter was Christ, who was holding seven stars in His hand and standing in the midst of the candlesticks. The stars are symbolical of the seven pastors, and the candlesticks represent the churches (Revelation 1:20).

Commendation (Revelation 2:2-3)

Christ commended or praised the Ephesian believers for their hard work and perseverance in the faith. They did not tolerate wickedness in the church or false teachers. They had undergone hardships for the sake of Christ and had not grown weary

in their service for God. This church was earnest in their efforts in serving God. They patiently endured hardship for Christ's sake and did not relent. In the face of hardships, they did not give up.

Condemnation (Revelation 2:4)

In the face of all the good this church had done, there was a major problem besetting the Ephesian church: the people had left their first love. Years earlier, Paul had commended this church for their love for other believers (Ephesians 1:15-16). Although the church had worked hard and remained doctrinally pure, they were not characterized in having a deep devotion for Christ. They were not motivated by the selfless sacrificial

love that God demonstrated to us (1 John 4:10-11). This church was sound doctrinally and engaged in service for the Lord; however, sound doctrine and service are not sufficient without love (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Exhortation (Revelation 2:5)

The church is exhorted to remember from where they had come. They needed to contemplate on the love that engulfed their hearts when they had first believed the gospel. Next, they were told to repent and change their thinking so that their focus would be on Christ. Purity and service should spring from a heart of love for Christ. Third, they were admonished to return to their first works and the love they had left. They needed to return to serving the Lord with

hearts full of love. If they refused to change, Christ would come and remove their candlestick. They would no longer serve as a witness in that region. Today the region formerly called Asia Minor is controlled by Islam. The light of this important church is gone. This church had refused to follow the deeds of the Nicolaitans (a sect that advocated and promoted a license in areas of Christian conduct).

Promise (Revelation 2:7)

A promise is given to those who would listen and obey. We are to listen to God's Word with an intent to obey. All true believers are overcomers and are promised heaven – the Paradise of God (Revelation 21:2).

May God Bless!

Continued **Juneteenth** Page 1

This is not merely a local issue. It is a national civil rights issue.

The denial of congressional representation falls particularly hard on communities of color. Nearly half of the District's population is African American, and generations of Black Washingtonians have lived under a system that deprives them of the same democratic rights enjoyed by citizens elsewhere in the country. In a nation that has spent decades working to expand voting rights and dismantle barriers to political participation, the continued disenfranchisement of D.C. residents stands as a troubling exception.

The case for D.C. statehood is not only constitutional and moral;

it is also practical.

Congress routinely intervenes in local District affairs despite the existence of an elected mayor and city council. Federal lawmakers from states thousands of miles away often seek to overturn local decisions on matters ranging from public safety to education and budgeting. No other American community faces such extensive congressional interference in its day-to-day governance.

Statehood would establish a clearer, more accountable framework for self-government while preserving a constitutionally required federal district that includes the Capitol, the White House, the Supreme Court, and other federal buildings. The proposal is straightforward and consistent with constitutional principles.

Statehood also makes economic sense. The District possesses a larger economy than many states, generates substantial tax revenue, and has demonstrated the capacity to govern itself responsibly. Residents contribute to the nation's prosperity while being denied an equal voice in the legislative decisions that affect their lives.

Opponents sometimes suggest that the answer is retrocession - returning most of the District to Maryland - as part of the city was once returned to Virginia in the nineteenth century. But this argument ignores political reality and public sentiment.

Neither Maryland nor Virginia has expressed any serious interest in absorbing the District's population and governmental responsibilities. Nor have D.C. residents

demonstrated any desire to surrender their unique civic identity and become residents of another state. Retrocession is not a realistic solution to the democratic deficit facing the District.

More importantly, retrocession avoids the central question. The issue is not geography. The issue is citizenship.

The residents of Washington, D.C. are Americans. They deserve the same rights as other Americans.

Throughout our history, the nation has repeatedly expanded the circle of democracy. We abolished slavery. We adopted constitutional amendments guaranteeing equal protection and voting rights. Women gained the right to vote. The Voting Rights Act helped dismantle Jim Crow barriers that had excluded mil-

lions from political participation.

Each step represented an acknowledgment that democracy is strongest when it includes everyone.

As we celebrate Juneteenth and reflect on 250 years of American history, we should recognize the setbacks that threaten that progress. The Supreme Court's recent decision in Louisiana v. Callais, which further weakened key protections of the Voting Rights Act, underscores how fragile democratic gains can be. At a moment when voting rights remain under attack, Congress should respond by restoring and strengthening those protections through passage of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. Ensuring equal access

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- THEME: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE
(Solution will appear in June 25 edition)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Last name behind Waldorf Astoria 6. Hawaiian flower garland 9. What beanstalk did 13. Pack animal 14. Charged particle 15. Lacking guile 16. Lumen per square meter, pl. 17. Crime scene evidence, aer. 18. Roast host 19. *Unalienable ones in the Declaration of Independence 21. *Colony that originally abstained from voting on independence 23. Baba of "One Thousand and One Nights" 24. Parsley or basil, e.g. 25. Mountain peak 28. *Four Declaration signers were alums of this CT Ivy Leaguer 30. Most mature, as in fruit 35. It must go on? 37. Small brook 39. *"...to assume among the powers of the ___" 40. Cap and gown accessory 41. Where there's trouble 43. Rani's dress 44. Useful quality 46. Volcano off Sicily coast 47. State on Old Glory 48. Dionysus' follower 50. Dems' opponents 52. Not divisible by two 53. Like certain people's glasses 55. Australia's flightless bird 57. *First Declaration of Independence signer 61. *Self-evident ones 64. Not a minor 65. "___ it or lose it!" 67. Songs for two 69. Formally surrenders land 70. *Last name of the only brothers to both sign the Declaration 71. Last Supper cup 72. "If you only ___!" 73. Boy 74. Item in diary | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crystal in the street 2. Atmosphere 3. Acid "journey" 4. Commotion 5. Pertaining to ear 6. Kills a dragon 7. Hitler's deputy 8. *Dre Johnson's show 9. Verdant 10. "The Simpsons" palindrome 11. General Services Administration 13. Assortment 14. *Dr. Leonard ___ of "Friends" 19. Delectable 22. Fleur-de-___ 23. Granny Smith, e.g. 24. Banned aerosol propellant 25. Strike back, e.g. 26. Through, for short 27. #12 Across, pl. 28. Part of an act 29. *Sandy Cohen's show 32. *Johnny ___ of "Schitt's Creek" 33. High-___ image 36. *Jack Pearson's show 38. Spam destination 40. Not in good health 41. Final words 44. Native American emblem 46. Resume business 48. Old West pack animal 49. Bread spreads 50. Foretell 51. Today's Colosseum, e.g. 52. Driving hazard, pl. 53. Desire 54. Fly like an eagle 55. Taro plant 56. *Logan ___ of "Succession" |
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Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Theme: DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

CROSSWORD														
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NEWS

Continued **Juneteenth** Page 3

to the ballot and guaranteeing full representation for the residents of Washington, DC., are complementary parts of the same democratic mission.

The unfinished work of freedom is not confined to history books. It lives in an ongoing effort to ensure that every citizen's voice matters and every community is represented.

The continued disenfranchisement of more than 700,000 Americans in the nation's capital is inconsistent with our highest ideals and our constitutional commitment to representative government. It weakens the credibility of our democratic example at home and abroad.

America's 250th birthday should be more than a celebration of past achievements. It should be a call to complete the unfinished work.

On this Juneteenth, let us honor the generations who fought to expand freedom by addressing two of the most visible remaining democratic shortcomings. Let us pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, grant statehood to Washington, DC, and close the hole in the soul of America by finally extending full representation and equal citizenship to the residents of our nation's capital.

After 250 years, democracy should leave no American behind.

Wade Henderson is a Past President of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. He is a native Washingtonian and currently resides in DC.

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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Quinn Minute

First Kiss

By Rix Quinn

We Baby Boomers grew up watching semi-romantic movies, most of which featured a smooch.

The leading characters might be pictured in a car, with the man's arm draped over the lady's shoulder. At some point, the conversation would turn romantic.

"I feel so comfortable being here with you," he might say. "This has been the greatest night of my

life."

He would kiss her cheek. She would turn her face toward his, and close her eyes. That was his signal to lock lips.

But that never happened to me.

I would sit with my date in the car, talking about everything...but nothing romantic. I didn't know what to say.

At some point she would utter, "Well, I guess

I better go in."

So I would take her to the door, say "I had a great time," and give her a warm, sincere handshake.

My first kiss was accidental. I took the girl to her front porch, tripped and fell forward.

My head fell against her neck, my lips brushing her cheek. She thought that was a kiss. I was glad.

From that point forward, my dating life im-

proved. But for me, "falling in love" was an actual event

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SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

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A City Unleashed: Knicks Make History, Ticker Tape Parade on June 18th

By BlackPressUSA Newswire and By Pat Stevenson | Harlem Community News



Photo: iStockphoto /NNPA.

The New York Knicks' 2026 NBA Championship marked the end of a 53-year drought and ignited one of the most euphoric celebrations New York City has seen in decades. The team clinched the title with a dramatic 94-90 victory over the San Antonio Spurs in Game 5, powered by Jalen Brunson's 45-point performance, which earned him Finals MVP honors.

The Knicks' playoff run was defined by grit and improbable comebacks, including a 29-point rally in Game 4—the largest in NBA Finals history since 1997. Their Game 5 comeback sealed the franchise's third championship, joining their earlier titles from 1970 and 1973.

This victory was espe-

cially meaningful because the Knicks had never before held a ticker-tape parade for their previous championships. Those earlier celebrations were limited to City Hall and Gracie Mansion, making 2026 the first true Canyon of Heroes parade in team history.

The long-awaited Ticker Tape parade is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026, as confirmed by New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani. The celebration will follow the iconic Canyon of Heroes route, beginning at Battery Park and traveling up Broadway to City Hall, where the team will receive keys to the city. This historic path has hosted generations of New York sports champions, from the Yankees to the Liberty.

City Hall and other municipal buildings, including the David N. Dinkins Manhattan Municipal Building and Brooklyn Borough Hall, will be illuminated in Knicks blue and orange to mark the occasion.

Even before the parade, New York erupted into spontaneous celebrations the moment the final buzzer sounded. Fans poured into streets from the Bronx to Brooklyn, Queens to Staten Island, and of course Manhattan. Watch parties overflowed, bars shook with chants, and Madison Square Garden became a roaring epicenter of joy. Mayor Mamdani highlighted how New Yorkers celebrated "from packed living rooms in the Bronx to watch parties in Brooklyn, from

bars in Queens to Staten Island to Manhattan."

These sporadic celebrations reflected the city's decades-long anticipation—an emotional release after years of heartbreak, rebuilding, and hope. The Knicks' victory unified the city in a way only sports can, echoing through subway cars, street corners, and skyline-lit boroughs.

With their 2026 triumph, the Knicks not only ended one of the longest title droughts in NBA history but also cemented a new chapter in New York sports lore. The combination of historic comebacks, a long-awaited parade, and citywide celebrations ensures this championship will be remembered for generations.

Continued Page 1

Dallas ISD advances across STAAR performance levels

Across all tested subjects, the percentage of students approaching grade-level expectations increased four percentage points, from 69% to 73%. Even more notably, the percentage of students achieving the Meets grade-level standard rose by 6 points, from 44% to 50%, while the percentage of students reaching the Masters grade-level standard increased by 4 points, from 19% to 23%.

The results reflect continued progress toward ensuring that more Dallas ISD students not only pass state assessments but also demonstrate a deeper understanding of grade-level content and readiness for future academic success.

The district recorded gains across all performance levels in both overall reading/language arts and overall mathematics.

Reading and language arts performance improved across nearly every grade level tested, with middle school students posting some of the strongest gains. Seventh-grade reading showed a five-point increase at the Approaches level and a five-point increase at the Masters level.

Mathematics results demonstrated similar momentum.

Overall math performance increased four percentage points at the Approaches level, five points at Meets, and two points at Masters. Sixth-

grade mathematics posted some of the district's largest gains, with Approaches performance increasing six percentage points and Meets performance rising seven percentage points.

Trustees noted that the gains were especially significant given Dallas ISD's student demographics, which differ from those of the state as a whole.

"Our demographics don't look like the state, and we are able to outperform what the state is doing," Trustee Lance Currie said. "The belief that students like ours can't compete, learn, and grow is definitively false."

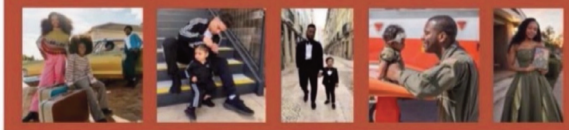
As these scores continue to be finalized, it is important to continue the innovative work the district has done to maintain its growth, said Superintendent Stephanie S. Elizalde, Ed.D.

"It is this board's unrelenting focus on academic achievement and high expectations that produced these results," she said. "It doesn't matter their background; all means all. Kids can be successful. When we provide resources, our kids can perform at all levels of excellence."

These results are preliminary, pending final verification by the Texas Education Agency. Final STAAR results will be released at the end of July, with A-F accountability ratings being released in mid-August.

HE'S MY HERO PRESENTS A FATHER'S DAY BLOCK PARTY

COMPLIMENTARY PHOTOS OF DADS, BONUS DADS & FATHER FIGURES WITH THEIR LOVED ONES.



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HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle
Solution: June 11 - TV DADS

M	A	T	H		A	S	H		B	L	O	G				
E	U	R	O		M	U	L	E		G	L	U	T	S		
T	R	I	O		E	R	A	S		R	A	S	T	A		
H	A	P	P	Y	D	A	Y	S		E	C	H	O			
				L	U	L	L	S		L	E	K				
A	F	R	A	M	E			T	I	N	I	E	S	T		
P	R	E		M	Y	R	R	H	S		S	U	C	H		
P	E	A	T	Y		O	E	R		T	H	R	E	E		
L	O	C	H		I	S	S	U	E	R		O	N	O		
E	N	T	I	T	L	E		P	A	R	S	E	C			
				S	O	L		B	O	I	S	E				
	B	R	I	T				F	U	L	L	H	O	U	S	E
R	O	U	S	E				O	R	E	O		P	R	O	D
O	D	I	U	M				G	R	O	G		E	G	A	D
Y	E	N	S					S	O	S			N	E	R	O

Continued **Factors** Page 2
the adage, it takes a village mindset?

A report says, "Today most Americans define being a good neighbor as maintaining a respectful distance and privacy rather

than being highly involved in each other's personal lives."

Quality-of-life issues are important in creating good neighborhoods. Crime, schools, and housing are all factors in judging the quality of neighborhoods.

Will our neighborhoods return to the state they were in many years ago? If I had to venture a guess, I would likely say no. However, we must do our best to create healthy and happy neighborhoods. This benefits all of us.

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African American Museum, Dallas Welcomes FIFA World Cup Visitors with Mandela: The Official Exhibition

On view now through Nov. 1 with extended hours, the multi-sensory exhibition explores the life of one of the world's most influential freedom fighters and political leaders whose vision continues to inspire



DALLAS (June 13, 2026) – Just in time for 2026 FIFA World Cup, the African American Museum, Dallas, today unveiled the internationally acclaimed *Mandela: The Official Exhibition*, on view now through Nov. 1, 2026. Free and open to the public, the museum is located in the heart of historic Fair Park at 3536 Grand Ave., Dallas 75210.

Mandela: The Official Exhibition explores the life of one of the world's most recognizable champions of freedom and justice – whose vision of justice, service and reconciliation continues to inspire people

around the globe. Presented in partnership with the City of Dallas, the exhibition serves as both a cultural anchor and welcoming destination for international visitors during World Cup “Fan Fest” activities at Fair Park.

“Nelson Mandela devoted his life to justice and to the fight against apartheid, enduring 27 years in prison before becoming South Africa’s first democratically elected president,” said Lisa Brown Ross, president and CEO of the African American Museum, Dallas. “This exhibition tells the full arc of his life and affirms the Mu-

seum’s role as a vital cultural destination for North Texas and for visitors from around the world.”

Dallas is hosting nine World Cup matches – the most of any U.S. city – and could draw up to 100,000 visitors per day.

Mandela had profound ties to soccer, embracing the sport as a tool for unity and hope in post-apartheid South Africa. From organizing matches while imprisoned to championing the 2010 FIFA World Cup, Mandela demonstrated how soccer could bridge deep divisions. His appearance at the tournament’s closing match, when he donned

South Africa’s national team jersey, became an enduring symbol of sport’s power to unite a nation and inspire the world.

“That this exhibition coincides with the FIFA World Cup is especially meaningful,” Brown Ross continued. “Mandela believed deeply in the power of sport – particularly soccer – to bring people together knowing that shared humanity can transcend race, class and ideology.”

Mandela – revolutionary, political prisoner, world leader and elder statesman

The exhibition spans all four galleries and unfolds through multisensory experiences, tracing Mandela’s extraordinary journey from his rural childhood in the Eastern Cape to his decades of resistance against apartheid and his election as South Africa’s first democratically elected president.

His journey to becoming the “Father of South Africa” and a globally revered figure is presented in personal and revealing ways. Through his own reflections and stories shared by his family and those who knew him best, visitors will see Mandela – respectfully called *Madiba* – in a new

light. *Madiba* is his Thembu clan name and is used as a sign of respect and affection.

One gallery is transformed into a fully immersive, multimedia environment that places visitors within defining chapters of Mandela’s life. Guests encounter rarely seen films, photographs and personal artifacts on loan from the Mandela family; museums and archives worldwide, illuminating the people, places and pivotal experiences that shaped one of the 20th century’s most remarkable leaders.

“Mandela’s extraordinary life reminds us that reconciliation and forgiveness require profound courage,” said Brown Ross. “This exhibition invites us to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit while connecting Dallas audiences – and our many international visitors – to the enduring values of understanding, leadership, community and grace.”

Education, youth and leadership – an essential learning opportunity

Margie J. Reese, the museum’s chief programs officer, noted that the Museum will extend Man-

del’s message beyond the galleries with a slate of education initiatives, giving students and educators an introduction to Mandela as an “icon of liberation and peace.”

“Mandela received a Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending apartheid peacefully. Through our programs, the Museum will encourage young people to explore Mandela’s principles of service, integrity, compassion, family and leadership while connecting those ideals to their own lives. Youth will learn that greatness is tangible and complex,” said Reese.

Produced by Round Room Live in partnership with The Royal House of Mandela (RHoM) and RHoM Investments, *Mandela: The Official Exhibition* has captivated audiences in major cities around the world for its innovative storytelling and emotional depth.

The African American Museum is located in historic Fair Park, and admission is free. Through Nov. 1, the Museum will offer extended hours Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Free self-parking is available in nearby lots.

“There can be no greater gift than that of giving one’s time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.” – Nelson Mandela