

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

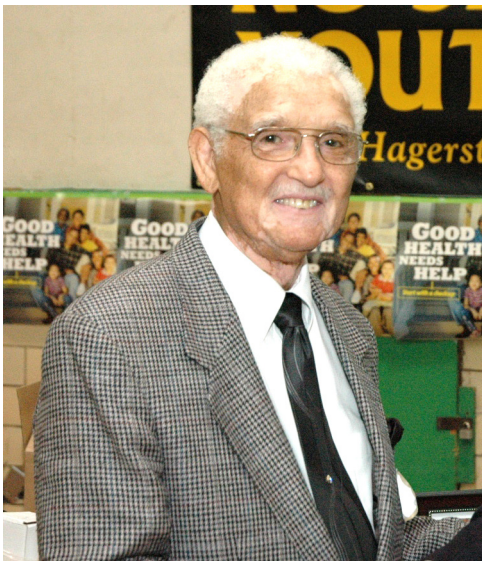
SPEAK UP!

JULY 2009

Speak Up Community News promotes the Culture, Health and Well Being of the community. Subscription is free. Articles and remarks are welcomed. Contact: Brothers Who Care, 131 W. North Avenue, Martin Luther King Community Center, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone 301-393-9290. Download a full-color copy of this news publication at: [www.blackmenwhocare.org](http://www.blackmenwhocare.org).

## WORD ON THE STREET

*This month Speak Up would like to honor a fine patriot of our community by reprinting the obituary of Lieutenant Robert William Johnson who was a Tuskegee trained Airman, teacher, coach, choir leader, family man and friend to all.*



### **Tribute to Robert "Coach" William Johnson**

Robert "Coach" William Johnson, 82, of Hagerstown, died Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at his home.

Born on August 12, 1926, in Sheridan, Pa., he was the son of the late Louie and Katie (Jackson) Johnson. He was the husband of 57 years of Patricia E. (Hill) Johnson of Hagerstown.

Coach graduated in the class of 1944 from Milcreek Township High School in Newmanstown, Pa., where he also was a member of the Civil Air Patrol. He then enlisted in the Army Air Force as a pre-aviation cadet. His military service took him to Keesler Field in Mississippi, Scott Field in Illinois and later to pilot training school at Tuskegee in Alabama.

Upon his honorable discharge from the service, Coach entered Morgan State College in Baltimore, Md., where he obtained a bachelor of science degree in health and physical education. He joined the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and became the vice bassilus of Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

In 1950, Coach accepted the position as science teacher and basketball coach at North Street School in Hagerstown. In 1956, he was transferred to North Hagerstown High School where he taught physical education, and coached basketball, football and baseball for more than 18 years. In 1974, Coach

received his master's degree equivalent from the University of Maryland and accepted the position of vice principal of E. Russell Hicks Middle School. In 1983, Coach retired from the Washington County Public School System.

In 1984, he was employed by The Herald-Mail in Hagerstown as a district manager in the Circulation Department until 1991. In 1993, he was a technician with J.C. Ehrlich Pest Control until 1998, and in 2000, he accepted the position as a security guard for the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts, where he later became head of security.

Coach has served in many capacities and on several boards over the years, including director for the North Street YMCA, board of directors for the YMCA, appointed youth commissioner by the governor of Maryland, board of directors of Goodwill Association, board of directors of Washington County Hospital, board member of the Commercial and Industrial Commission of the City of Hagerstown, trustee emeritus of the Trustee Board of Ebenezer AME Church in Hagerstown, past choir director of the Ebenezer AME Church Senior Choir, member of the Equity Advisory Council of the Washington County Board of Education and member of the Washington County Retired Administrators.

In addition to his many accomplishments, Coach was inducted into the Washington County Sports Hall of Fame in 1988.

In addition to his wife, Coach is survived by two daughters, Pamela E. Sonntag of Hagerstown and Penny E. Ponder of Birmingham, Ala.; two sons, Stephen L. Johnson of Beaumont, Texas, and Roderick L. Johnson of Hagerstown; three sisters, Lois Stockton and Carol Hayes, both of Lebanon, Pa., and Katherine Harewood of Lancaster, Pa.; two brothers, Edward Johnson of Harrisburg, Pa., and Winslow Johnson of Lebanon; 12 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces and nephews. Coach was preceded in death by one sister and four brothers.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, June 24, 2009, at 11 a.m. at Christ's Reformed Church, 130 W. Franklin St., Hagerstown. The Rev. Leroy Jackson officiated. Lieutenant Johnson was laid to rest at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park in Hagerstown with full military honors accorded by AMVETS Post 10 and the Marine Corps League of Hagerstown.

*(Coach Johnson is pictured above at one of the many community events he often attended in support of others)*

# POWER TO THE PEOPLE

## Grand Opening planned for Bethel Fellowship Church.

Bethel Fellowship Church (a member of Bethel World Outreach Ministries International) will be opening the doors of the new church on Sunday, August 2, 2009 with a contemporary worship service at 10:30 am and the grand opening celebration at 6:30 pm that same day. The new location is 19833 Leitersburg Pike, Hagerstown, Maryland 21742. The church is led by Roger Guerengomba, Senior Pastor who met with Brothers Who Care to share about his plans to provide computer training classes and nursing preparation training as ministry effort to help people find jobs in a tight economy. Dr. Moussa Toure and Bishop Darlington G. Johnson will be guest speakers at the day of grand opening. Bethel Fellowship Church is currently located at 44 North Potomac Street, suite 203, Hagerstown. The church's upcoming events include Gospel Fest 2009 at City Park in Hagerstown on July 11, 2009 from 4 pm to 7pm and there will be a picnic at the Island Pavilion. For more information call their office at (301) 393-5454 or Rev. Victor Fowlkes Sr. (420) 675-1353.

## Premier Martial Arts and the Premier KIDZ Foundation

Master Mike Bolding (Premier Martial Arts) is leading an effort in our area to raise funds through the Premier KIDZ Foundation (a non-profit) to help charities and offer free educational programs. Premier KIDZ foundation is a non-profit whose sole purpose is to improve the safety and education of today's children to insure their success. One of the strategies Master Bolding is using to help Premier KIDZ, is distributing \$5 coupons that give VIP passes to the Premier Martial Arts studio that include 2 private starter classes, a free official Premier Martial Arts uniform and one month of free lessons. Definitely a good deal for \$5 and you help a worthy cause that supports food banks, homeless shelters, Ronald McDonald House, Big Brothers & Big Sisters of America. The charity support also provides help to after school programs and gives scholarship awards to children for tutoring programs, martial arts trainings and someday even college tuition. If you or your organization would like to help out with the distribution of the VIP Passes, you can receive free pizza parties and free martial arts lessons for your participation. Or if you want to purchase a few \$5 VIP Passes, contact Premier Martial Arts in Hagerstown MD (301) 733-1900, in Chambersburg PA (717) 261-9119, in Martinsburg WV (304) 262-9559. Visit the website: [www.premierkidzfoundation.com/index.html](http://www.premierkidzfoundation.com/index.html) for more information on their help to the community.

## SPEAK UP Native American News



### “Local Native American receives minority business loans”

General contractor Milton Stamper (Cherokee tribe) owner of Stamper Builders recently received several business loans targeted for minority/women owned businesses through Maryland's Link Deposit Program. Hagerstown Trust Bank is the local financial institute offering the loans that can save minority business owners thousands of dollars over a period of time because the loans are set a percentage rate lower than the bank's normal lending rates. Construction barriers with the name Stamper Builders can be seen around the Hagerstown area, however they are not as impressive as the Tipi, (commonly known as *Teepee*), that Stamper set up north of Hagerstown in the Marsh Pike area. Stamper Builders can be reached at 313 E. Wilson Blvd, Suite 1 Hagerstown, Maryland 21740 or call (301) 791-2400. Milton Stamper (on left) is pictured here with Cornelius Red Deer, Commissioner for

the Governors Office of Indian Affairs. Red Deer attended the ceremony in Hagerstown with other Maryland officials that included Treasurer Nancy Koop, Secretary Luwanda Jenkins (Office of Minority Affairs), Ray Skinner (Governor's Office) and Senator Donald Munson who also mentioned he would like to see funding targeted for people with disabilities.

## Radio talk show host Jay Winter Nightwolf appeared on TV talk show with Cynthia McKinney

Jay Winter Nightwolf (host of the Nightwolf Show on Washington DC - WPFW 89.3 FM) was invited as a guest on the American Dream television talk show that is hosted by former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. Nightwolf was asked to comment on the healthcare experience of Native Americans in the U.S. Nightwolf told viewers, "The life expectancy of American Indians on some reservations out west is 47 years of age and that diabetes is not only a challenging disease in Indian country, its an epidemic along with obesity." The response raised the attention of the other guest Reverend Graylan Hagler (United Church in Christ) and Phillip Jackson (Black Star Project, by way of phone from Chicago). The show was recorded June 18, 2009 and broadcast on June 22, 2009 it can be viewed at the website link:

<http://presstv.com/programs/player/?id=98919> . Following the show, McKinney left for Gaza. She was arrested and jailed along with twenty others for trying to deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza strip while aboard the ship Spirit of Humanity. A movement to free the Gaza 21 is under way. Click the following link for more on the story:

<http://www.sfbayview.com/2009/free-gaza-free-the-gaza-21-including-cynthia-mckinney-from-israeli-jail>.

## OTHER NEWS:

*John Wesley United Methodist Church, Hagerstown* to hold what they call a "Fiesta" week of Bible learning July 30, 2009 through August 1, 2009 at their church located at 129 N. Potomac Street. Call (301) 733-0391 for the exact times.

# Youth News

Photos from the 2009 No Smoking Youth Rally held at Wheaton Park in Hagerstown.

The Washington County Board of Education display taught youth rally participants that smoking can put hair on your tongue.



Smoking facts and free Frisbees provided by the Washington County Health Department's Stop Smoking For Life program



The line was long to Win Mr. Andy's Money and everyone that tried was a winner



Contestants named, from memory, poisons in tobacco or facts about the dangers of smoking

Best friends



Premier Martial Arts gave martial arts demonstrations to youth rally participants. The Memorial Recreation Center's Day Camp program joined a few others to participate in another successful No Smoking Youth Rally! Visit our website to view the photo story slideshow: <http://blackmenwhocare.org/images/2009YouthRally.wmv>

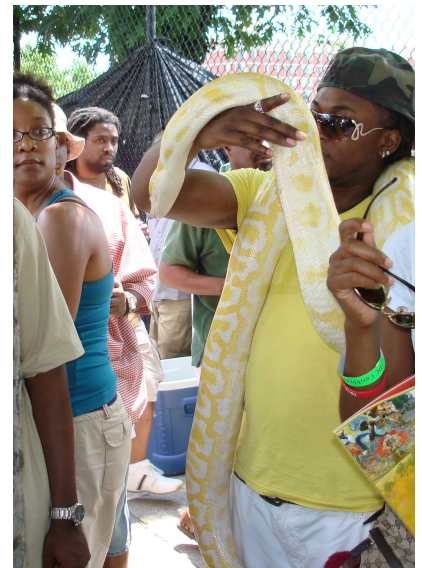
## SPEAK UP PHOTO GALLERY



Photo above left: John Bennett, Director of the American Dream TV talk show, runs the control room . Photo above right: back row Verona Iriarte, Jay Winter Nightwolf, Cynthia McKinney and Charlie Hankerson with Hankerson's three children in front. Verona is the producer for the Nightwolf radio talk show and Hankerson is one of the organizers for the Hawk of Winter Pow Wow planned for Mt. Airy, Maryland on October 24 – 25, 2009. The Pow Wow is a benefit for Native tribes in ND, SD and OK more info to come.



Photo above taken by Leroy Eckstien of the Tee Pee (also called Tipi) erected by Milton Stamper in a field on Marsh Pike in Hagerstown. Photo on above right is Commissioner Red Deer posing beside one of downtown Hagerstown's butterfly sculptures.



The 2009 D.C. Carnival Caribbean Festival offered flair, fashion and fun for carnival participants, vendors and spectators. The weather was exceptionally kind as temperatures cooled to the mid 70's over 100,000 people lined the streets as carnival mask and floats paraded down Georgia Avenue past Howard University. Landscape changes did not hinder spectators from congregating on the lawn of the university. The gated street was a new feature that did not limit thousands from entering the streets to dance down with their favorite group. See more of this festival at our website link: [http://blackmenwhocare.org/images/2009\\_DC\\_Carnival.wmv](http://blackmenwhocare.org/images/2009_DC_Carnival.wmv).