



FAIR HOUSING NEWS

A newsletter about fair housing, community development, & neighborhood quality of life



SUMMER GREETINGS!

Welcome to this Edition of *Fair Housing News* Produced by the GBCHRB as a **Public Service!** There is an extra page because of all the news. To join the mailing list: <mailto:wkladky@gbchrb.org>. You can

go to our website <http://www.gbchrb.org> for laws, links, etc.

Watch an episode of our TV show on the YouTube Channel -

<http://www.youtube.com/user/wkladky1>! Or, check out <http://www.gbchrb.org/2rad9899.htm> for radio shows on topics about Fair Housing!

IN THIS ISSUE...

<i>National News</i>	1
<i>Fair Lending News</i>	4
<i>Maryland News</i>	6
<i>HUD & DOJ Enforcement</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	9
<i>Fair Housing Resources</i>	9
<i>Rest in Peace</i>	10

NATIONAL NEWS



Black Families Pay 10% Higher Property Taxes than White Families, According to New Study. The June, 2020 working paper by economists Troup Howard of the University of Utah and Carlos Avenancio-León of Indiana University discovered that unfair property assessments have produced wide over taxation of black homes. They analyzed over 10 years of tax assessment and sales data on 118 million homes. Black-owned homes are assessed at higher values to their actual sale price than white homes. In virtually every state, property tax assessments were higher in areas with more black and Hispanics. The gap between white families and minority households (Hispanic and Black families) was 10%. One historian Andrew Kahrl commented that this updates the Jim Crow practice when

"local white officials routinely manipulated property tax assessments to overburden and punish black populations and as a hidden tax break to landowning white gentry," sometimes in direct retaliation for black political action. For example, in 1932 a black North Carolina resident was taxed for the value of two stray dogs that had been seen on her property. Also, because Black homes' sale price grows slower because the white majority of potential home buyers often avoid black neighborhoods, the black family pays more property taxes with a less increasing sales price. Nearby whites benefit because their homes 'values increase quicker than their assessments - which is an ever-increasing tax break. The supposedly neutral appeals process also penalizes even the highest-earning black Americans who pay more property taxes than similar whites near them. They note that assessors probably do not realize "how unequally the burden is falling along racial and ethnic lines." [Read the July 2, 2020 Washington Post article.](#) [Read the June, 2020 study.](#)





Surge in Anti-Asian Harassment and Bigotry Since COVID

Emergency Began. Purportedly anxiety about the [COVID virus](#) first detected in Wuhan, China, has stirred more xenophobia and bigotry toward people of Asian descent. On June 9, 2020, a [coalition of civil rights groups](#) - the Asian Pacific Planning and Policy Council (A3PCON), Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA), and San Francisco Asian American Studies Department - reported over 1,900 discriminatory

incidents in 45 states during the past eight weeks. [A list of recent cases](#) collected by the Anti-Defamation League evidences increased reports of incidents such as defacing Asian-owned stores with racist graffiti, video chats interrupted by anti-Asian comments, and people being beaten or denied entry to businesses. In a [Pew Research Center survey](#), 58% of English-speaking Asian-American adults stated that expressions of racist or insensitive views about Asians had increased. One effort against this are the hashtags such as #IAMNotCovid19, #RacismIsAVirus, #HealthNotHate, and #MakeNoiseToday. The Ad Council began a face mask initiative in July with a new anti-harassment online and TV campaign. [Read the July 21, 2020 New York Times article.](#)

US President Uses Housing as a "nakedly racist appeal to White voters," Writes *Washington Post* columnist Eugene Robinson.

"On Wednesday (July 29), Trump [tweeted](#) what may be the most nakedly racist appeal to White voters that I've seen since the days of segregationist state leaders such as Alabama's George Wallace and Georgia's Lester Maddox: "I am happy to inform all of the people living their Suburban Lifestyle Dream that you will no longer be bothered or financially hurt by having low income housing built in your neighborhood... Your housing prices will go up based on the market, and crime will go down. I have rescinded the Obama-Biden AFFH Rule. Enjoy!" Robinson further observes that "it's a message to White people they can go ahead and do whatever they feel is necessary to keep Black people and Latinos from moving into their neighborhoods." [Read the July 30, 2020 Washington Post opinion article.](#)



Millions Face Homelessness as COVID Unemployment Benefits Expire.

Homelessness chances have risen sharply also because of the poor economy and fewer renter protections. "I've never seen this many people poised to lose their housing in such a short period of time," said Bill Faith of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio [to AP](#). Citing the Aspen Institute, the AP also reported that it is estimated that approximately 23 million Americans now are at risk of eviction and

homelessness. The recent Census [Household Pulse Survey](#) found over 26.5% of American adults 18 or older questioned if they could pay last month's rent or mortgage payment or that they had little or no confidence next month's could be paid. Many lower-income Americans initially got by on credit cards and stimulus checks. The National Apartment Association commented that "The hole that they're getting in from a financial standpoint is going to take years for them to dig out of, if they ever can." [Read the August 5, 2020 Axios article.](#)

National Study by the ADL (the Anti-Defamation League) Discovers 28% of Americans Experience Severe Online Harassment and Members of Marginalized Groups Experience Even More Hate. The online actions included sexual harassment, stalking, physical threats, swatting, doxing, or sustained harassment, according to the





ADL [survey](#). Online harassment related to someone's protected characteristics increased from 32% to 35% during 2018-2020, and religion-based harassment doubled to 22%. Some 77% of those harassed stated that some of it happened on Facebook, 27% on Twitter, 21% on YouTube, Instagram 20%, and WhatsApp 9%. 61% of Muslims were harassed online compared to 2019's 35%. Some 55% of Asian-Americans were harassed compared to 20% in 2018, Jews went from 35% to 43% in 2020, African Americans from 27% to 42% in 2020, and Hispanics or Latinos 30% to 42%. 44% of Americans faced some type of online hate/harassment, mainly offensive name calling and attempted embarrassment. As a result, a coalition of the ADL NAACP, Sleeping Giants, Color of Change, Free Press, and Common Sense started a campaign [#StopHateforProfit](#) to push Facebook advertisers to pause advertising there in July. [Read the June 23, 2020 ADL release.](#)

HUD Issues Proposal to Alter the Equal Access Rule that might Encourage Discrimination Against Individuals who are Transgender and/or Nonbinary.

The [2012 original rule](#) required HUD-funded shelters and programs be open to everyone regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. In 2016, [A 2016 HUD amendment](#) said that individuals must be accommodated according to their gender identity, and outlawed questions and requirements to provide anatomical information or gender identity evidence. HUD's proposal would remove the 2016 provisions and legalize those seeking shelter and considered transgender to be asked offensive, invasive questions about their bodies, and shelters could refuse service to someone based on their gender or a perception of their gender. This negative change is proposed despite evidence that studies have shown that a significant number of transgender individuals [already are discriminated against by shelters](#) and that [30% of transgender and gender non-conforming people have been homeless](#) at some time. [Read the August 5, 2020 NCRC release.](#)



Leading Civil Rights & Housing Groups Condemn President's Effort to Slash Fair Housing and His Use of Incendiary Racial Rhetoric for Political Gain. The coalition of civil rights, affordable housing, and consumer advocacy organizations - including the [National Low Income Housing Coalition](#), the [Center for Responsible Lending](#), the [Georgetown University Law Center Civil Rights Clinic](#), and the [NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund](#) - criticized the Administration's effort to virtually eliminate the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) requirement for addressing systemic racism and segregation by issuing a new rule by executive fiat. The groups cite the considerable evidence that all residents benefit from diverse, inclusive communities, such as [research](#) by Harvard University Economist Raj Chetty. The president's false claim that AFFH leads to decreased property values and more suburban crime has racial implications because one purpose of AFFH is to create more housing opportunities for people who have been excluded from mostly white neighborhoods due to federal, state, and local policies and practices. They speculate that this rule, issued a few months before the presidential election, is trying to provoke fear among suburban white voters. [Read the July 23, 2020 National CAPACD release.](#)

While Transit has Improved Since the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Important Service Gaps Remain.

According to the University





of Buffalo's Center for Inclusive Design and Environmental Access study, millions still face transportation barriers, which are worse for people with disabilities because of their comparative greater reliance on public transit. Accomplishments and deficiencies are most obvious in the oldest transit systems such in New York City, which only 25.2% of its 492 stations accessible. This compares to 70% in Chicago and 98% in Boston. Newer systems are doing much better, like Washington, DC, and San Francisco with 100% accessible

stations. Fortunately, all major U.S. cities have bus fleets that are 100 percent wheelchair-accessible, with many with all low-floor buses with ramps. However, [disabled riders in many areas](#) cannot get to accessible buses because of inaccessible roads and sidewalks and rely on ADA-mandated Paratransit requiring advance reservations and often are late. Paratransit is also expensive, costing up to 10 times fixed-route service's the per-trip cost. Transportation network companies like Uber and Lyft are faster but don't have a large enough fleet of accessible vehicles. [Read the June 26, 2020 Washington Post article.](#)

Landmark Supreme Court Ruling Affirms Native American Rights in Oklahoma that could affect Housing Rights.

The decision that much of eastern Oklahoma - including Tulsa - is an Indian reservation could impact criminal justice in the area by stopping state authorities from prosecuting Native Americans. It is potentially one of the most important legal victories for Native Americans for decades. The decision means that Indigenous



people who commit crimes on the reservation cannot be prosecuted by state or local law enforcement, and instead be adjudicated in tribal or federal courts. Lawyers are now determining if there are wider implications for taxing, zoning, and other government activities. However, most of the specific impacts will be set by upcoming negotiations between state and federal authorities and the five Native American tribes in that section of Oklahoma. The tribal leaders of the Muscogees, praised the decision as a victory that clarified their lands' status. [Read the July 9, 2020 New York Times article.](#)



Netflix is moving \$100M to help bolster Black banks. Netflix will move up to \$100 million, or 2% of its cash, to financial institutions focusing on Black communities. This is intended to address an ongoing problem for these communities: a lack of capital for the lenders serving them. Netflix will begin with \$25 million in financing for the new Black Economic Development Initiative fund for Black

financial institutions, and \$10 million for the Hope Credit Union. Hope Credit Union, based in Jackson, Mississippi, had just over \$300 million in assets in 2019. The money will have "a tremendous impact" in Black communities, Hope said. [Read the June 30, 2020 New York Times article.](#)



FAIR LENDING

Investigation Finds Some Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Mortgage Borrowers are Disproportionately Paying More for Loans.

Findings from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) [new report](#) also found that Asian Indian and Chinese borrowers were offered low interest rates and closing fees from lenders, while other AAPI groups such as

Native Hawaiians, Filipinos, and Vietnamese were given higher-cost loans. The findings were based on 2018 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) data, the first time the lenders were required to categorize loan applicants by country of origin. About 60% of Asian applicants reported their national origin. The [National CAPACD](#), a AAPI (American Asian Pacific Islander) advocacy coalition, commented that these findings are more evidence that certain Asian groups were treated less fairly than others by lenders, as previously shown in the 2008 foreclosure crisis, [Read the August 6, 2020 NCRC report release.](#)

Senate Democrats Criticize Possible Redlining in Student Lending

Creditworthiness Decisions. Senate Democrats have questioned if private student lenders are committing educational redlining by charging higher prices for credit for historically marginalized groups. Lenders increasingly are factoring in where a potential borrower attends college or their major to assess credit risk and the corresponding interest to charge. In response, lenders have said that utilizing several gauges of consumer information like education leads to higher approval rates and lower interest rates. However, three Senate Democrats hold that because these practices possibly have a disparate impact on minority groups and would violate fair-lending laws, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) must investigate. [Read the July 30, 2020 Washington Post article.](#)



Mortgage Study Finds Same-Sex Couples Paid Higher Interest Rates and Closing Fees on Home Loans. The research brief from the National Community Reinvestment Coalition was based on 2018 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA), the first to include data identifying lending to same-sex couples. In the study, same-sex couples applying for a loan were more likely to be minority, lower-income, and younger than different-sex couples. Same-sex couples also more sought loans from mortgage companies than banks or credit unions, and usually paid higher closing costs and interest rates than different sex couples. In addition, same-sex couples were denied more often and less likely to have their application for a home purchase loan result in an origination. Some 22 states prohibit sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination, and the 1968 Fair Housing Act does not have same-sex couples or LGBTQ+ persons as a legally protected class. [Read the June 29, 2020 NCRC article.](#)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Rescinds Plan To

Limit Payday Lending Rates. This is a major victory that the industry has fought for several years. The rules would have been the first strong federal regulations on an industry annually making \$30 billion in high-interest, short-term loans that often leave borrowers trapped in cycles of increasing debt they cannot pay off. Changes would have limited the loans that could occur in a row and required lenders to verify borrowers could afford to repay the debt. The Pew Charitable Trusts, a long advocate of limiting high-interest loans, termed the decision “a grave error” that makes millions stuck with unaffordable payments with triple-digit interest rates. [Read the July 7, 2020 New York Times article.](#)



Amicus Brief Opposes OCC Charter That Would Aid Predatory Lenders. The Center for Responsible Lending, National Consumer Law Center, and National Community Reinvestment Coalition filed an amicus brief in *Lacewell v. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency*



(OCC) to support the plaintiff, the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS), against the OCC's plan to issue "special purpose national bank" charters to nonbank lenders. They urged the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold the lower court's decision to stop the OCC from issuing nonbank "bank" charters because it would allow predatory lenders to ignore state consumer protection laws, especially state interest rate caps on lending

products. The brief notes that the nonbank charter is another OCC effort to benefit high-cost lenders. Currently, at least 45 states and DC have interest rate caps on some consumer loans. For states that cap rates, the median annual rate with all fees is 38.5% for a \$500, six-month loan; 31% for a \$2,000, two-year loan; and 25% for a \$10,000, five-year loan. Voting and opinion polls evidence that the public [strongly supports](#) such state caps. [Read the July 31, 2020 NCRC release.](#)

Ex-Morgan Stanley Diversity Officer sues Bank, Alleging Racial

Discrimination, Retaliation, and Equal Pay Law Violations. The plaintiff, Marilyn Booker, was a managing director for 26 years until she was fired, according to the lawsuit filed in Brooklyn federal court. Booker said the bank deleted her position after top executives denied her proposal to increase diversity and correct rampant systemic racial bias against its black financial advisers and trainees. Booker also alleged that the bank also practiced discriminatory employment practices against other black female employees, and is filing a collective action claim under the Equal Pay Act. Morgan Stanley denied her allegations and said it will defend itself. [Read the June 16, 2020 Reuters article.](#)



MARYLAND NEWS

City to Hold Virtual Fair Housing Film Festival on August 24-

28,2020. The Baltimore City Office of Equity and Civil Rights for this year's Civil Rights Week will present their first annual Fair Housing Film Festival from August 24-28 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Attendees can watch films, join panel discussions, and view original performances about aspects of fair housing, everyone's right to live wherever they can afford without housing discrimination. Numerous experts will speak and discuss issues and facts relevant to fair housing. To become a sponsor, contact Lauren Jackson at lauren.jackson@baltimorecity.gov. All of the Festival will be hosted on Eventive. To sign up to receive more information:

<https://fairhousingfilmfestival.splashthat.com/#rsvp>/<https://filmfreeway.com/FairHousingFilmFestival>.

Well Fargo & Co. agreed to pay \$20 million to Maryland to resolve a dispute over the bank's role in the financial crisis of 2007 and 2008.

The settlement is the company's largest payoff for allegedly misleading investors in the financial crisis. The Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh's office argued that Wells misrepresented the quality of some of the loans backing its residential mortgage-backed securities. Wells issued 119 residential mortgage backed securities in 2005-2009. Like bonds, these securities are backed by the interest paid on loans for residences and often are lumped together to minimize individual default risk. Most contained prime mortgages, but others were Alt-A and subprime mortgages, riskier to investors.



Wells Fargo did not search the mortgage pools to remove other non-complying loans or decide that some were below its standards. Wells found that many borrowers' stated income exceeded that reported to the IRS. [Read the June 16, 2020 Baltimore Sun article.](#)

Historical Snapshot: Ocean City's Long History Of Segregation and Discrimination.

In a picture in a 1927 *Afro-American* article, perhaps the only Black people in the resort town were workers, and they were only in the part of beach beyond the northern end of the boardwalk, far from the town center. This shows that new hotel construction had pushed the area for Black beachgoers into more and more remote and undesirable areas. Before the 1960s, Black people could only go on the beach and boardwalk on "Colored Excursion Days," occurring one day each for Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware residents after the summer season had ended. Segregation and discrimination in Ocean City persisted, as well as protests against it, after the 1957 US Civil Rights law passed. Protests included the cancellation of the speech of Pierre Salinger, President John F. Kennedy's press secretary, before the Maryland Press Association because the Ocean City hotel hosting him forbade Blacks. The NAACP, the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the Civic Interest Group tried to integrate Ocean City, but were frequently rebuffed. In June 1962, for example, the *Baltimore Sun* reported that a poll of city business owners found many refused to integrate. By 1964, however, CORE publicly stated that conditions in the city had improved. [Read the July 2, 2020 Baltimore Sun article.](#)



HUD & DOJ ENFORCEMENT

Anyone who believes they have experienced housing discrimination may file a complaint of discrimination by contacting HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at (800) 669-9777 or visiting [How to File a Complaint](#) on HUD's website. Materials and assistance are available for persons with limited English proficiency. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the Department using the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

HUD Charges Georgia Housing Providers with Discriminating against Tenant with Disabilities. Tzadik Georgia Portfolio, LLC, and Tzadik Management Group, LLC in Albany, Georgia, allegedly refused to grant reasonable accommodations for a tenant with disabilities who lived in one of their properties. [Read HUD's Charge.](#) HUD's charge will be heard by a US Administrative Law Judge. After a hearing, the judge may award monetary and other damages to the complainant for harm caused by the discrimination. In addition, the judge may order injunctive relief, other equitable relief, payment of attorney's fees, and may impose fines for the public interest. [Read the July 20, 2020 HUD release.](#)



HUD Announces "Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration." This pilot program will measure the impact of housing choice upon the economic conditions of low-income families. The Demonstration will give funding to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to run housing mobility programs with mobility-related services to increase the number of voucher families with children in designated opportunity areas. Participating PHAs will work together to develop administrative policies to further housing mobility, increase landlord participation,

and reduce barriers preventing families from moving to another PHA jurisdictions through voucher portability. Funding is from HUD's 2019 and 2020 Appropriations, which budgeted \$40 million for mobility-related services, \$10 million for new families with children vouchers, and \$3 million for research and evaluation. [Read the July 21, 2020 HUD release.](#)

Ithaca, New York Housing Providers Charged by HUD with Discriminating against Tenant with Disabilities.

Ithaca Renting, LLC d/b/a Ithaca Renting Company and f/k/a 130 Clinton, LLC, Fane Enterprises, Inc., and their property manager allegedly refused to grant the reasonable accommodation request of a resident with disabilities. The housing provider allegedly denied the resident's request to have an assistance animal. The case began when the claimant filed a complaint with HUD. The charge will be heard by a US Administrative Law Judge unless any party wants to have the case heard in federal district court. After a hearing, the judge may award monetary and other damages to the complainant for harm caused by the discrimination. In addition, the judge may order injunctive relief, other equitable relief, payment of attorney's fees, and may impose fines for the public interest. [Read HUD's charge.](#)



HUD Approves Conciliation/Voluntary Compliance Agreement with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) Resolving Allegations that SHRA Staff Discriminated Against a Person with Disabilities.

The staff apparently delayed installing additional grab bars in a unit's shower area despite the tenant's reasonable accommodation request. [Read the agreement.](#) The agreement involves the Agency paying \$7,500 to the tenant, fair housing training for Agency staff, and the Agency updating its compliance with the law. [Read the July 17, 2020 HUD release.](#)

North Carolina Man Pleads Guilty to Violating Fair Housing Act and Threatening an African American Family Because of Their Race.

The Justice Department announced the 34 year old man pleaded guilty in federal court in the Eastern District of North Carolina to one count of criminal interference for using threats of force against the family because of their race and because they were renting. According to the plea agreement, and admissions in court, the defendant drove to the family's home and yelled racial slurs and told them they did not belong in their home. The defendant threatened to shoot the family and its four minor children, as well as any other African American visiting their property. He then "brandished a metal rod in a threatening manner." In response, the family moved out of the neighborhood a few days later. The defendant also did the same thing toward two other African American families living in the same neighborhood. [Read the August 6, 2020 HUD release.](#)



The US Department of Justice (DOJ) Files Lawsuit Alleging Fair Housing Act Violations of Sexual Harassment of Tenants by Owner of Rental Properties in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

The complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, alleged that the man, who owns many rental units around Elizabeth, has harassed tenants and applicants many times since at least 2005. The harassment allegedly included demanding sexual favors to get or keep housing, offering housing benefits like reduced rent in exchange for sexual favors, touching tenants and applicants in an unwelcome and sexual way, and making unwelcome sexual comments

and advances to tenants and applicants. Also alleged is that the man began or threatened to start eviction actions against tenants who balked at or refused sexual advances. According to the complaint, the man participates in the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) and gets roughly \$102,000 monthly in Housing Choice Voucher payments. The lawsuit seeks monetary damages for the victims, civil penalties, and a court order barring discrimination. [Read the Aug. 5, 2020 DOJ release.](#)



CALENDAR

National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) Presents "Fair Housing 101 - Part II: Fair Lending & Consumer Protection on August 19 from 2-3:30 p.m. The online NCRC Training Academy course reviews lending and consumer laws that impact daily client interaction. [For more information and to register.](#) If you have any questions, contact training@ncrc.org. The course covers the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Community Reinvestment Act, Truth in Lending Act, and Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act. Attendees will learn how to use these laws as tools to identify fair lending violations and protect clients from predatory lending. Housing Counselors will work on recognizing lender and/or real estate practices that have a disparate impact on clients through documentation review.

FAIR HOUSING RESOURCES

On July 31, 2020, the documentary *The Fight* about the ACLU's legal challenges to four Trump Administration measures was released to online streaming platforms and pay TV. The cases are about the separation of immigrants from their children; the [abortion rights of an undocumented teenager](#); whether the Census Bureau would be permitted to [include a citizenship question on the 2020 census](#); and the administration's military. The PG-13 96 minute film was directed by Eli B. Despres, Josh Kriegman, and Elyse Steinberg. In addition to the individual fights, the film shows how the ACLU builds a legal case and discusses the ACLU's history. [Read the July 30, 2020 review in the New York Times.](#)



Interested In Fair Housing? Community Development? Insurance? Foreclosure Prevention? Check Out the [GBCHRB's YouTube Channel!](#) You can watch interviews about insurance, discrimination, affordable housing, Fair Housing laws, disability issues, mortgage lending, and related issues. Our radio shows: <http://www.gbchr.org/2rad9899.htm>.

The GBCHRB Distributes Free Fair Housing Brochures, Posters, and Guides. We have Fair Housing information, brochures, guides, & posters in English, Spanish, Korean, Russian, and for people with disabilities. We also distribute brochures and guides about housing and insurance. 410.929.7640 / or <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.



What Do You Think of This Newsletter? Is it good? Bad? How can we improve it? What issues should we cover more? Less? Any good ideas? Tips? Good jokes?! Positive or negative, we want to hear from you! We appreciate constructive criticism! Send comments to <mailto:wkladky@gbchr.org>.



REST IN PEACE

Charles Evers, Civil Rights Advocate and Brother of Medgar Evers, 97. The brother of slain activist Medgar Evers, Charles Evers led black voter registration efforts in Mississippi in the 1960s and was elected the first black mayor of a mixed-race Mississippi

town since Reconstruction. As one of that state's first black radio disc jockeys who also ran a hotel, a restaurant, a cab stand, and a funeral parlor, he gave some to his brother's civil rights work. He took over Medgar Evers' NAACP role and helped mobilize black Mississippi voters. By 1966, he had run several successful boycotts that led to a hospital's desegregation increased hiring of African Americans. Defeated in a 1968 Congress run, he was elected of Fayette which had a 1,700 population. [Read the July 22, 2020 Washington Post obituary.](#)

John Lewis, Civil Rights Leader and Congressman, 80.

Mentored by Dr. King, Lewis in 1963 became head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form in 1960. SNCC helped organized sit-ins and demonstrations across the South. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial when Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech, Lewis, (the youngest speaker) said, "If we do not get meaningful legislation out of this Congress, the time will come when we will not confine our marching to Washington... We must say, 'Wake up, America, wake up!' For we cannot stop, and we will not be patient." However, he opposed militant black nationalists such as Stokely Carmichael, who later take over SNCC. Lewis was elected to Congress from Georgia and served 30 years. He there served the role of conscience of the Democratic caucus regarding many issues, and had the reputation as keeper of the 1960s flame. On Inauguration Day 2009, Obama, the country's first black president, gave Mr. Lewis a photo with the inscription: "Because of you, John." [Read the July 17, 2020 Washington Post obituary.](#)



C.T. Vivian, Baptist Minister and Civil Rights Activist, 95. Rev. Vivian participated in a 1947 lunch-counter sit-in protest in Peoria, Ill., more than a dozen years before such confrontations at segregated cafeterias became a mainstream tactic of the civil rights struggle. He also was among the Freedom Rider activists in 1961 who traveled by bus into the Deep South to test enforcement of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that had outlawed discrimination in interstate transportation

facilities. As director of affiliates for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.-led Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rev. Vivian helped orchestrate protest activities and training and community development efforts. Notably also, Rev. Vivian was injured while registering Blacks to vote in Selma, Alabama, a protest that eventually led to the March 1965 "Bloody Sunday" fight at the Edmund Pettus Bridge that captured on national television strengthened congressional support for the Voting Rights Act to outlaw racial discrimination in balloting. [Read the July 17, 2020 Washington Post article.](#)