

The Iowa African-American Journal

Volume 10, Issue 5

Summer 2005

ICSAA Staff Receive Golden Dome Awards

Commissioners

Beverly Allen
Des Moines
term expires April 2008

Cutis Baugh
Pella
term expires April 2006

Dr. Michael Blackwell
Waterloo
term expires April 2006

Jamie Howard
Davenport
term expires April 2008

Isaiah Johnson
Denison
term expires April 2006

Thomas Simmons
Adel
term expires April 2008

Jerome Thomas
Dubuque
term expires April 2008

Loretha Teggatz
Fort Dodge
term expires April 2008

Charlotte Westerhaus
Cedar Rapids
term expires April 2009

Walter Reed, ex officio
Director
Department of Human Rights

Staff

Kimberly Baxter
Director

Kim Cheeks
Program Coordinator

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GOLDEN DOME AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual Governor's Golden Dome Awards Ceremony were presented on June 14th at the Iowa State Capitol. The Golden Dome Awards were created as an employee reward and recognition system to encourage employee excellence and dedication. The Department of Human Rights recipients were:

Leader of the Year

Kimberly R. Baxter

Lt. Governor's Employee Volunteer

Kimberly X. Cheeks

Lt. Governor's Employee Volunteer

Jill M. Fulitano-Avery

Employee of the Year

James M. Mezera

LEADER OF THE YEAR: KIMBERLY BAXTER



Kimberly displays visionary leadership skills and has dramatically increased the Iowa Commission on the Status of African Americans' visibility across the state and has forged new partnerships within state government and the broader community. Kimberly serves as a role model for her peers and staff by developing positive relationships, building trust and establishing a good rapport with others, both in State government and within the community. She clearly establishes goals to achieve a significant impact to ensure equity for all Iowa citizens including women, persons with disabilities, persons who are low-income, and people of color.

LT. GOVERNOR'S EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER: KIM CHEEKS



Kim has served on the Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence women of Color Committee and continues to recruit and maintain an active membership for this endeavor. She is active in the Boys and Girls Club, and provides resources for volunteers for committees and advisory boards for non-profit and state government appointments. She works with academic Institutions for recruitment and retention of diverse students within various fields of internship possibilities. She has a vested interest in decreasing the disproportionate incarceration of minorities, the deterring of youth involved in violent activities and enhanced positive self awareness and identity of adolescent females. In addition to these activities, she has served on numerous state-associated task forces and committees.

In the News...

Vilsack, Pederson announce new Director of Department of Human Rights



Walter Reed, Jr.

DES MOINES – Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Pederson announced January 7, 2005, the appointment of Walter Reed Jr. as Director of the Iowa Department of Human Rights. Reed assumed his duties on February 11, 2005.

“We are pleased to announce the appointment of Walter Reed Jr. as Director of the Department of Human Rights,” Vilsack said. “He brings a wealth of experience to the job and is committed to expanding opportunities for all Iowans.”

A Waterloo native, Reed has served nearly 10 years as Executive Director of the Waterloo Commission on Human Rights and spent six years successfully building the Cedar Valley Diversity Appreciation Team and Study Circles Program. He has worked closely with the Vilsack/Pederson administration on issues of overrepresentation of minorities in prison and the minority achievement gap in education. He is also a member of the State Board of

Corrections. Reed holds a bachelor's degree from Wartburg College and has continued his education through numerous courses in human rights enforcement, compliance, management and financial administration.

“Walter Reed Jr. has proven himself to be a capable manager and a compassionate public servant. We are confident he will provide outstanding leadership for the Department of Human Rights,” Lt. Governor Pederson said. “We are also deeply grateful for the leadership and dedication of interim Director Kathryn Baumann-Reese.”

The Department of Human Rights has numerous divisions including Community Action Agencies, Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning, Deaf Services, Latino Affairs, Persons with Disabilities, Status of African-Americans and Status of Women, as well as the Asian and Pacific Islander Commission. Reed replaced interim Director Kathryn Baumann-Reese, who led the Department since the retirement of Ruth White on December 28, 2004.

Senate to Atone for Lynching Ban Delays

By Associated Press

June 13, 2005, 10:43 AM CDT

WASHINGTON -- The Senate seldom says it's sorry, although it is now ready to officially express its remorse over the failure to outlaw lynching in the United States.

A resolution that the chamber was likely to take up Monday voices regret for the Senate's unwillingness for years to pass a law stopping a crime that cost the lives of over 4,700 people, mostly blacks, between 1882 and 1968.

Doria Dee Johnson, the great-great granddaughter of a black South Carolina farmer who was killed by a white mob nearly a century ago, was to be on hand for the floor vote.

The Evanston, Ill., woman has said that her family "lost property and family solidarity that still affects us today" when Anthony Crawford, a wealthy cotton farmer, was killed in 1916 by several hundred residents of Abbeville, S.C. Ms. Johnson today is an author and frequent lecturer on the subject of lynchings.

In the past, efforts to pass such legislation fell victim to Senate filibusters despite pleas for its passage by seven presidents, among others, between 1890 and 1952.

The Senate resolution is sponsored by Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and George Allen, R-Va. The bill, likely to be subject to a voice vote, states that nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in the first half of the 20th century but that nothing got through.

The nonbinding measure apologizes for this failure and expresses "most solemn regrets of the Senate to the descendants of victims of lynching."

Landrieu's spokesman, Adam Sharp, said that Johnson was expected to be joined in the Senate by other descendants of victims, including a cousin of Emmett Till, the black teenager killed in Mississippi 50 years ago, reportedly for whistling at a white woman. The FBI earlier this month exhumed Till's body to search for clues to his slaying.

Landrieu called lynching and mob violence were "an American form of terrorism" documented in at least 46 states.

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Legislation

Governor to issue Executive Order: Create opportunity to connect Iowans to American government

Directive will grant restoration of voting rights for ex-offenders

June 17, 2005:

DES MOINES – Governor Tom Vilsack, joined by legislators from both parties, announced today plans to issue an Executive Order that will grant voting rights to disqualified electors who have discharged their sentence, probation or parole. Vilsack will sign the Order on July 4, 2005.

With the proposed directive, Iowa will join 45 other states that have put in place an automatic process for restoration of voting rights. Under Iowa's current law, individuals convicted of felonies or aggravated misdemeanors lose their right to vote and hold public office. To become eligible to vote, offenders now must undergo a 3 to 6 month process that includes submitting an application to the Governor seeking "restoration of citizenship," the application is then forwarded to the Division of Criminal Investigation for verification and then sent to the Board of Parole for a recommendation.

"The right to vote is the foundation of our government and serves as a symbol of opportunity for our citizens," Governor Vilsack said. "Research shows that ex-offenders who vote are less-likely to re-offend and the restoration of voting rights is an important aspect of reintegrating offenders in society so that they become law-abiding and productive citizens."

The executive order will also direct the Department of Corrections to submit a list of eligible offenders each month to the Governor's Office for consideration of a restoration of citizenship. This will eliminate the requirement for an offender to file an application and seek review by the Parole Board.

"Iowans who are living, working and paying taxes in Iowa are denied the right to vote because of their prior conviction," Vilsack said. "The disenfranchisement of these offenders has a disproportionate impact on minorities in our communities, which means those minorities are not being equally represented by their government. This directive will provide the most important opportunity to those who need it most – the right to vote."

The Executive Order will not constitute a "pardon" or remission of guilt and will not restore an individual's firearms rights.

Restoration of Citizenship Rights – Frequently Asked Questions

Who is ineligible to vote because of a prior conviction?

Under Iowa law, anyone convicted of a felony or aggravated misdemeanor loses the right to vote and hold public office.

What is a restoration of citizenship rights?

It refers to a form of clemency whereby the Governor of Iowa restores an offender's right to vote and hold public office that was forfeited by reason of a conviction of felony or aggravated misdemeanor.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you have been convicted of a federal felony, you are not eligible to vote in Iowa unless you have had your citizenship rights restored. Although the Governor of Iowa cannot grant a full pardon for a federal crime, the Governor can restore your right to vote and hold public office within Iowa.

What if I was convicted in another state?

If you have been convicted of a felony in another state, you are not eligible to vote in Iowa unless you have had your citizenship rights restored. Although the Governor of Iowa cannot grant a full pardon for a crime committed in another state, the Governor can restore your right to vote and hold public office within Iowa.

What is the process for seeking to have my citizenship rights restored?

On July 4, 2005, Governor Vilsack issued Executive Order No. 42, which granted a blanket restoration of citizenship rights for all offenders that completely discharged their sentences, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, or supervised release. After July 4, 2005, the Department of Corrections will forward to the Governor each month a record of offenders that have discharged their sentences, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, or supervised release. The Governor will consider without undue delay these individuals for a restoration of citizenship rights. If granted, a restoration of citizenship certificate will be issued to the offender's last known address.

Do I need to submit an application to be considered for a restoration of citizenship rights?

If you have completely discharged your sentence by July 4, 2005, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, or supervised release, you will be covered by the blanket restoration of citizenship rights, and there is no need for you to file an application with the Governor's office. For offenders that will completely discharge their sentences after July 4, 2005, including any accompanying term of probation, parole, the Department of Corrections will forward their names on a monthly basis to the Governor who will give consideration without undue delay. Notwithstanding the executive order, offenders have a statutory right to make an application for a restoration of citizenship rights at any time following a conviction.

If I have already submitted an application to the Governor for restoration of citizenship rights, what do I do now? Will my application be processed?

If you have an application pending before the Governor, it will be processed according to the procedures set forth in Chapter 914 of the Code of Iowa unless you request that it be withdrawn.

If I discharged my sentence before July 4, 2005, how do I provide proof of restoration of citizenship rights?

Offenders who have discharged their sentences before July 4, 2005, will not receive a separate restoration of citizenship certificate after the executive order is signed. Instead, the executive order itself will serve as evidence of restoration of citizenship rights for such offenders. A copy of the executive order will be available by contacting the Governor and Lt. Governor's office or by visiting their website (<http://www.governor.state.ia.us/>).

Does a restoration of citizenship restore my right to possess a firearm?

No, the executive order will not include any rights with respect to receipt, transportation, or possession of firearms as provided by federal law or Chapter 724 of the Code of Iowa. If you wish to restore your firearm rights, you will need to obtain and submit an application for firearm restoration to the Governor's office.

Is a restoration of citizenship rights the same as a pardon?

No, the executive order, and all future restorations of citizenship rights, will not be considered a pardon or as a remission of guilt or forgiveness of the offense and will not operate as a bar to greater penalties for second offenses or a subsequent conviction as a habitual

criminal. If you wish to seek a pardon, you will need to obtain and submit an application to the Governor's office.

Does a restoration of citizenship rights affect my financial obligations arising from my conviction?

No, a restoration of citizenship rights will not relieve an offender of any unpaid restitution, fine, or other financial obligation resulting from a conviction.

If I have my citizenship rights restored, do I need to re-register to vote?

Yes. Please contact your County Auditor or the Iowa Secretary of State's office for voter registration forms. You may reach the Secretary of State via telephone at 515/281-8993.

How do I get a duplicate restoration of citizenship rights certificate?

A duplicate certificate may be obtained by contacting the Governor's office.

What happens if an individual re-offends?

If an offender is convicted of a felony or aggravated misdemeanor after having their citizenship rights restored, they again lose the right to vote and hold public office.

How long will it take to receive a restoration certificate after I complete my sentence?

The Department of Corrections will forward a record each month of offenders who are eligible to receive consideration from the Governor for a restoration of citizenship rights. The Governor will then make a decision and notification will be mailed to the offender's last known address. If you do not receive notification within two months after completion of your sentence, please contact the Governor's office.

What if I still have questions about restoration of citizenship rights?

Please visit the Governor and Lt. Governor's office website (<http://www.governor.state.ia.us/>) or contact the office by phone at 515/281-3502.

Health

Prostate Cancer Is Most Common Cancer in American Men



CITY, STATE – Date, 2005 – This Father's Day, the American Cancer Society is raising awareness that among American men, prostate cancer is the most common cancer, excluding skin cancers, and the second leading cause of cancer death, exceeded only by lung cancer. This year Iowa, more than 3,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and roughly 400 men are expected to die from the disease.

Fortunately, when prostate cancer is detected early, the five-year survival rate is nearly 100 percent. Because early prostate cancer usually has no symptoms, it is important to discuss early detection methods with your physician. Screening tests such as the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and the digital rectal examination (DRE) are available to detect prostate cancer early, but neither test is 100 percent accurate. Men should openly discuss the benefits and limitations of prostate cancer testing with their physician at annual checkups.

The only well-established risk factors for prostate cancer are age, ethnicity and family history of the

disease. More than 70 percent of all prostate cancer cases occur in men older than 65. In addition, prostate cancer incidence rates among African-American men are twice as high as rates among Caucasian men.

The American Cancer Society believes that health care professionals should offer the PSA blood test and DRE yearly, beginning at age 50, to men who have at least a 10-year life expectancy. Men at high risk, such as African-Americans and men who have a first-degree relative who was diagnosed with prostate cancer at an age younger than 65, should begin testing at age 45.

The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by saving lives, diminishing suffering and preventing cancer through research, education, advocacy and service. Founded in 1913 and with national headquarters in Atlanta, the Society has 14 regional Divisions and local offices in 3,400 communities, involving millions of volunteers across the United States. For more information anytime, call toll free 1.800.ACS.2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

African Americans and Tobacco

Every year, approximately 45,000 African Americans die from preventable smoking-related diseases. Tobacco use is a major contributor to the leading causes of death in the United States: heart disease, cancer, and stroke. In a document written by the American Cancer Society, research shows that African Americans bear a disproportionate burden of cancer in the United States. Because tobacco affects almost every organ in the human body, it is the number one preventable risk factor for cancer. So your best bet is to quit smoking or never start.

Many people who start using tobacco do not fully understand the risk they are undertaking, nor do they understand how wasteful tobacco use is. The average cost of cigarettes in the United States is \$4.50 per pack. If someone smoked a pack each day for a year, they would spend \$1643.50. Some may smoke up to five packs per day which translates into \$8217.50 per year. Imagine the possibilities of having an extra \$1500 each year to treat yourself. The total dollar

amount is not the only thing wasted. Each day, on average, a person is awake for 16 hours or 960 minutes. If that person smokes one pack per day, they would take a smoke break every 45 minutes. Now, back to the five packs per day smoker, their smoke breaks would be every 9 minutes. (This does not include the time required to smoke the cigarette.)

Tobacco use is a waste of time, money, and quality of life. The Central Iowa Tobacco-free Partnership and the American Lung Association provide a wealth of knowledge regarding tobacco use, your health, and how to quit smoking. For more information, call the American Lung Association at (515) 278-5864 or the FREE Quitline Iowa at 1-866-U-CAN-TRY.

Written by
Jessica Brimeyer
Intern at Central Iowa Tobacco-free Partnership

Employment Opportunities

CITY OF WATERLOO, IOWA POSITION VACANCY

GARAGE SUPERINTENDENT CENTRAL GARAGE

Professional, administrative position under the general direction of the Mayor and City Council responsible for directing, coordinating and supervising the purchase, maintenance and repair of all City vehicles except for Fire Rescue. Supervises nine employees.

All qualified candidates must submit a cover letter and resume detailing education, work experience, salary history and salary requirements to the City of Waterloo Human Resources Department, 620 Mulberry Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50703 or email employment@waterloo-ia.org by **Friday, July 8, 2005**. Applicants will receive additional information on the position when a resume is received.

A.A./E.E.O.

Minority, female & disabled individuals are encouraged to apply.

Mercy Medical - Des Moines Diversity Coordinator

Diversity/Employee Services Coordinator

Come join the experts at Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines, a 917-bed acute care hospital, and recipient of the 2005 Greater Des Moines Partnership Diversity Award. The selected individual will develop and coordinate diversity and affirmative action initiatives and programs to create a work community of choice. The ideal candidate will have experience with diversity/affirmative action initiatives and community development. A Bachelor's degree in human resources, business or related field is required. Base salary is \$17.80/hr.

For immediate consideration, submit your resume to kelsberry@mercydesmoines.org; fax to 515-643-8831; or apply on-line at www.mercydesmoines.org. Pre-employment physical examination and drug test administered prior to employment.

Mercy Medical Center-Des Moines is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer that values the strength diversity brings to our workplace.

Sears Customer Direct is Expanding to include kmart.com!

Now hiring Online Care Associates to service our kmart.com customers by processing online orders and addressing customer inquiries over the telephone in a timely, accurate and professional manner.

Training starts July 18th. Various Full time schedules including every Saturday or every Sunday.

\$10.00/hour starting pay, benefits include: casual dress, paid training, Sears discount, medical/life/dental insurance, 401k, and advancement opportunities.

Apply in person or send your resume to:



7100 Westown Parkway
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
Phone: (515) 440-5014
Fax: (515) 440-5011
Email: crhrdes@sears.com

Criminal Background Check Required

EEOE/AA/Drug Free Workplace

Mark Your Calendars

Celebrate Voting

In August, it will be 40 years since President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, which codified and put into effect the 15th Amendment's guarantee that "no person shall be denied the right to vote on account of race or color." With this milestone, and before it the passage of the 19th Amendment to secure voting rights for women (1920), we are reminded that voting in America has been an evolving process.

To celebrate the legacy of voting rights, and to educate and engage Iowans about the history and future of our right to vote, the Secretary of State and a coalition of Iowa organizations are developing a "Celebrate Voting" Initiative. It will include a series of events in communities throughout the state – all designed as a tribute to the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, the 85th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and the dynamic process that continues to expand access to voting for all citizens.

The "Celebrate Voting" initiative will be launched with events in Des Moines on August 5 and 6. Renowned opera singer and Iowan, Simon Estes, has accepted an invitation to perform. The August 5th event will honor Iowans who made contributions to the struggle for voting rights.

Partnering organizations that will ensure a meaningful and bipartisan series of events include the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Iowa State Historical Foundation, the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, and the League of Women Voters of Iowa. Other groups – university centers, educational groups, community advocacy groups, corporations and businesses, will participate as event sponsors and hosts. Specific event details will be available in the weeks ahead and will be posted regularly on the Secretary Of State's web site at <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/index.html>.

Mark Your Calendars

Achieving the Dream

This year, we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Iowa Civil Rights Act and the 15th anniversary of the Americans for Disabilities Act. The Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. is planning a half-day event on July 21, 2005 in Des Moines to issue a call to unity and action in celebration and reflection of this historic occasion and to re-dedicate ourselves to the civil rights challenges remaining.

some of the pioneers involved in the fight for civil rights in Iowa and learn about current/future civil rights challenges. Please plan to attend and bring your organization's banner and/or pro-civil rights signs. If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Peterson, Executive Director, Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, 515-281-8086 or dawn.peterson@icrc.gov.

The celebration opens at the Capitol with a short march to commemorate and re-enact the civil rights marches of the 1960's from the Capitol to the State Historical Building.

A Call for Unity and Action to Celebrate 40 Years of the Iowa Civil Rights Act
 Capitol Complex
 July 21, 2005
 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.


After a short march, the celebration will continue at the Historical Building with a reception, music, drama, panel discussions and a closing keynote speaker, the Rev. C. T. Vivian, long-time civil rights leader who worked with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for many years. We will hear from

Keynote:

"Achieve the Dream" – Reverend C.T. Vivian


Mark Your Calendars!

The Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
presents
 The Seventh Annual African-American Male National Conference
"Education vs. Incarceration"
October 26-28, 2005
 Hilton Hotel
 Indianapolis, Indiana



Look for registration information at www.IN.gov/icssbm

For more information please contact:
 Indiana Commission on the Social Status of Black Males
 (317) 234-1389 • Steven.Ingram@fssa.in.gov • www.IN.gov/icssbm



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<p>Or email us at: dhr.icsaa@iowa.gov</p>	

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Summer 2005 Edition
Editor: Kim Cheeks

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**The Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans needs your support!
Yes, I want to make a difference in the lives of African American Iowans.**

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- Educational, Health, Economics, or Criminal Justice Programs
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

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