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New NAACP President Says Protest in His DNA

By George E. Curry, NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – When Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III of Dallas, Texas learned that the NAACP Board of Directors had chosen Cornell William Brooks over him, Attorney Bar-



Cornell William Brooks

bara R. Arnwine and several other better known candidates to succeed outgoing president Benjamin Todd Jealous, his response was “Who?”

And he wasn’t the only one responding that way.

In an interview from Florida, where trustees had just made their selection, a board member who asked not to be identified by name said, “We turned the whole nation into a collection of owls,” he said. “When they learned of our decision, everyone in the country was saying, “Who? Who? Who?”

Though he is not among the Who’s Who of national civil rights advocates, Brooks feels his entire life has prepared him to become president and CEO of the NAACP. He graduated from Jackson State University

in Mississippi with honors, earned a Master of Divinity degree with a concentration in systematic theology from Boston University School of Theology where Dr. Martin Luther King earned his Ph.D. in the same area of study – and graduated from Yale Law School, serving as a senior editor of the Yale Law Journal and a member of the Yale Law and Policy Review.

After serving as a law clerk for Judge Sam J. Irvin III on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Brooks’ first job was as an attorney at the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law headed by Barbara Arnwine. He later worked as an attorney for the Justice Department, a senior attorney for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and was executive director of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington, D.C.

His most recent job was as president of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, a Newark-based organization founded in 1999 by the Alan V. and Amy Lowenstein Foundation. According to its website, the institute seeks to expand economic opportunity for people of color and low-income residents; promotes holding local, state and regional government accountable for fulfilling the needs of urban residents and protects the civil rights of the disadvantaged.

“When you look at the arc of my career, it has not been sin-

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HBCUX Network to Host Bahamas First American Football Classic - Central State University (CSU) and Texas Southern University (TSU) Athletic Directors present 4-year scholarships to the Bahamian Minister of Tourism. From Left: Permanent Secretary for The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism Harrison Thompson; CSU Athletic Director Jahan Culbreath; The Bahamas Minister of Tourism Obediah Wilchcombe; TSU Athletic Director Charles McClelland; and HBCUX President & CEO Curtis Symonds. See story, page 11.

New Report: Blacks are ‘Beyond Broke’

By Freddie Allen, NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – The growing racial wealth gap – \$200 in median wealth for Blacks in 2011 and \$23,000 for Whites – threatens national economic security in the United States, according to a recent report by the Center for Global Policy Solutions.

“When it comes to the racial gap in liquid wealth, African Americans and Latinos are nearly penniless,” stated the report. “The median liquid wealth of Whites is over 100 times that of Blacks.”

The report said that when retirement savings are taken out of the analysis, the disparities in liquid wealth are even more disturbing.

“Blacks are found to hold a mere \$25 and Latinos just \$100 in liquid wealth, compared to \$3,000 held by the typical White



Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) discusses wealth gap with Rep. Barbara Lee (D-Calif.).

household,” the report said.

During a press conference on the report on Capitol Hill, Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) said that the racial gap is not some product of changes in the economy. “It’s our tax policy, designed to help the rich, It’s also our trade policy, off-shoring our jobs and it’s also the attack on unions,” said Ellison.

Rep. Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) said that families are living pay-

check to paycheck and are drowning in debt from predatory loans and mortgages and decreased home values following the housing crisis.

This great divide in wealth has contributed to many of the problems that are facing communities of color, including lower educational achievement and family insecurity, according to Horsford.

He said that minorities were institutionally restricted from having access to wealth-building tools largely until the Civil Rights Movement and, though explicit institutional racism has somewhat subsided, the wide gap in wealth between families of color and White families is still a reflection of more discreet systematic and social barriers that have limited eco-

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Winter Park Mentoring Programs Honors Young Men For Their Academic Achievements - Shown from left to right: Claude Cheatham Jr., Toshmari Christmas, Brailon Miles, Julian Scott, Jonathan Bertrand, and Curtis Gulleddge Jr. Back row: Howard Washington Jr., Derek Walls, John Davis, Xaivian Raymond, and Alonzo Gainey. See story, page 3.