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A Progressive Voice in the African American Community

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Historic Confirmation of First Black Woman To Supreme Court Brings Hope & Inspiration for Black Women & Young Girls

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (TSU News Service) – The history-making confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court offers a moment filled with hope and excitement for Black girls and young women, experts say. In a 53-47 vote – with three Republicans joining Democrats – the Senate Thursday confirmed Judge Jackson, making her only the third black and sixth woman to serve on the nation's highest court.

President Joe Biden nominated Jackson on Feb. 5 to take the seat of retiring Justice Stephen Breyer.

"This is one of the most incredible historical moments for our nation and one of immense pride and joy for millions of Americans with the confirmation of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court," said TSU President Glenda Glover.

"African American women have been at the forefront in facilitating and bringing positive change to our country for centuries. The true significance of this confirmation cannot be overstated. Now, an African American woman with impeccable credentials, a brilliant legal mind with the utmost character and integrity, will serve on the highest court in our nation. It is long overdue, but the day has come."

President Glover, who also serves

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Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson confirmed as the first Black woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court

Dr. Carter Recognized with Naming of Commemorative Street at UTC

From left, Mistress of Ceremony, Willie McClendon, WNOO Radio; Yusuf Hakeem, State Repr. and BSCC Board Chair; Katherlyn Geter, Hamilton County Commissioner; Marvene Noel, Chatt. City Council; Dr. Roland Carter; Stacy Lightfoot, Vice Chancellor for Diversity & Engagement, UTC: Tyler Forrest, Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration, UTC; and Paula Wilkes, BSCC President. (Photo by G.Faye Stoudemire)

On Sunday, Dr. Roland Carter hurried back to Chattanooga from an out-of-town engagement to conduct a closing performance by the Chattanooga Choral Society for the Preservation of African American Song during the Big 9 Roots Festival. A hometown treasure, the renown conductor, composer, and pianist has directed the local Choral Society for over 20 years.

Clearly unknowing and to his surprise, Dr. Carter was presented with proclamations from both the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County governments; And…. a commemorative street sign display by University of Tennessee at Chattanooga officials to be placed on a portion of Vine Street on the campus of UTC where (prior to retirement) he served as the Ruth S. Holmberg Professor of American Music!

Dr. Carter, in his usual humble demeanor, reflected on his life's journey and choosing to leave his beloved position at Hampton University and taking the position as head of music at UTC …. where not so long ago…. he could not even attend the then segregated institution!

Tennessee Music Pathways Unveils Marker Honoring Chattanooga's Bessie Smith

From left, Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger; Beverly Clarke, Granddaughter of Bessie Smith; Kevin Clarke, Great-Grandson of Bessie Smith; Historical Marker honoring Bessie Smith; Representative Yusef Hakeem, BSCC Board Chair; Hugh Morrow, Board Chair, Chattanooga Tourism Co.; and Tamara Stewart, Chief Equity Officer, City of Chattanooga. (Photo: G. Faye Stoudemire)

By Camm Ashford

Bessie Smith, one of the most popular African American artists of the 1920s, was honored last Friday with the installation of a "Tennessee Music Pathways" marker.

The event took place in the singer's hometown of Chattanooga on the front lawn of the Bessie Smith Cultural Center, 200 East Martin Luther King Blvd.

Smith's granddaughter Bever-

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Darrin Ledford and Raquetta Dotley Elected New Leaders of Chattanooga City Council

Darrin Ledford, Chair

Raquetta Dotley, Vice Chair

The Chattanooga City Council on Tuesday voted to elect Darrin Ledford, district 4 city councilman, as chair of the body. The City Council also voted to elect Raquetta Dotley, district 7 city councilwoman, as vice-chair.

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