

REGIONAL / NATIONAL

NNPA Set to Honor Four African American Trailblazers with Leadership Awards

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA News-
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Keith Ellison emerged as more than just a figurehead during his first term as Attorney General in Minnesota.

The “People’s lawyer” displayed a firm and steady hand guiding the state through Covid restrictions, settling multi-billion-dollar drug cases with opioid distributors and Johnson & Johnson, and protecting tenants’ rights in landlord disputes.

James Winston, President of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters (NABOB), has earned the distinction as the voice representing Black-owned broadcasters.

Together with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), Winston and NABOB are working to encourage the media and advertising industries to become more proactive and committed to diversity from the C-suites to the decision-making managers.

Winston believes more is needed to increase and enhance the ownership of media businesses by African Americans and other minorities.

President of the historically Black Tennessee State University since 2013 and the international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Dr. Glenda Glover, has already carved an indelible

imprint on Black students at her school and across the nation.

Recently, President Joe Biden appointed Dr. Glover as vice-chair of the President’s Board of Advisors on HBCUs.

Meanwhile, Rev. Dr. William Barber II, the architect of the Moral Movement, has remained vigilant in the fight for social justice.

Declaring that “we won’t be silent anymore,” Dr. Barber led the Mass Poor People’s & Low-Wage Workers’ Assembly and Moral March on Washington and to the Polls in June.

Dr. Barber and his large following demanded that policymakers fight poverty, not the poor.

On Thursday, September 29, Dr. Barber, Dr. Glover, Winston, and Ellison will receive NNPA National Leadership Awards.

With a guest performance by Grammy winner Chrisette Michele, the 7 p.m. ceremony at the Marriott Marquis in Northwest, Washington, D.C., honors individuals who show continuous support of the Black Press and the Black Community.

This year’s NNPA Leadership Awards Reception theme is “Saluting Transformational Leaders and Ensuring Black Voter Turnout.”

The NNPA’s social media hashtag, #10MillionNewVoters, continues to trend.



On Thursday, September 29, Rev. Dr. William Barber II, Dr. Glenda Glover, James Winston, and Keith Ellison will receive NNPA National Leadership Awards

“I am truly honored to receive this award on behalf of the work we do at NABOB,” Winston told NNPA Newswire.

“I am especially honored to join the highly distinguished list of former honorees, including Vice President Kamala Harris and Olympic Gold Medalist Allyson Felix,” he remarked.

“It has been my pleasure to work closely with Dr. Ben Chavis to further the mutual interests of our organizations. I humbly accept this award with a pledge to continue the work of NABOB and NNPA to amplify and enhance the voices of the

African American community.”

Ellison, seeking re-election in Minnesota, also expressed gratitude for the award.

“I am honored to receive the National Leadership Award from the NNPA/Black Press of America,” Ellison stated.

“The Black Press has served as a trusted source of information for 195 years. Black media provides an invaluable service by centering Black voices, engaging the community, and pushing for a more just society.”

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Gives Tennessee Voters Opportunity to Create Emergency Succession Plan for Office of Governor

Vote ‘YES’ on Amendment 2 to the Tennessee Constitution to ensure stability for state executive office

(NASHVILLE) On the November 8 ballot, Tennessee voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on a proposed amendment to the state constitution that establishes a framework for a temporary transition of power for the highest elected official in the state. If approved, the amendment would be invoked if the governor is temporarily incapacitated and unable to perform his or her duties, most likely due to a medical emergency. Tennessee is the only state that does not have a provision in its state constitution to address this issue.

State Senator Becky Massey (R-Knoxville) and House Majority Leader William Lamberth (R-Portland) sponsored this initiative in the General Assembly. Massey says it is critical for a definitive protocol to be in place, just in case.

“In the unusual event the state’s highest elected official is temporarily

unable to meet the needs of the office, it is important for the stability of our state that Tennessee’s constitution lays out a clear path for the transfer of power,” said Massey. “It is good practice to plan for all scenarios. I hope we never need to invoke this provision, but if it is ever needed, it will be really needed. It’s time Tennessee joins all other states and adds this provision to our constitution. I urge all citizens to vote “yes” on Amendment 2.”

The initiative will be on the November ballot as Constitutional Amendment 2.

The proposed constitutional provision states that if a governor is unable to perform his or her duties because of temporary incapacitation, then the powers and duties of the governor will be discharged by the speaker of the Senate, who also serves as the Lt. Governor of the state. If it is a planned incapacitation, such as a major surgery, then the governor would declare in writing that the powers and duties of the office will be temporarily discharged by the Senate speaker.

If it is an unplanned incapacitation, then a majority of the governor’s cabinet will submit the written declaration. The acting governor would be authorized to continue to perform the duties of the office until the governor transmits that he or she is able to resume responsibilities.

“We certainly hope this is something we will never need, but it’s necessary to have a plan in place that secures our democracy in such a crisis,” Lamberth said. “Voting “yes” on Amendment 2 will strengthen our constitution and our state government by ensuring there is no extended period in Tennessee where it’s unclear how executive powers are to be carried out.”

If the Senate speaker is acting governor, the speaker will not be required to resign as speaker or as a member of the General Assembly. However, he or she will not preside as speaker or vote as a member in order to maintain separation of powers between the legislative and executive branch and because the Tennessee Constitution does not allow an elected of-

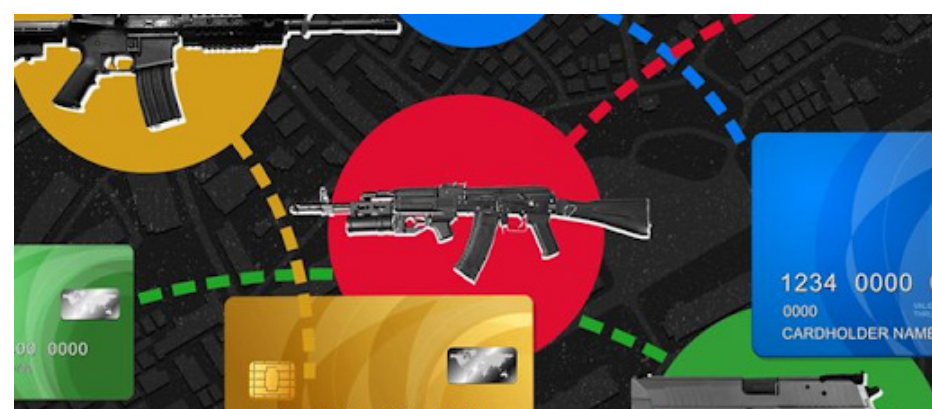
ficial to hold two offices at the same time.

Other states have used similar provisions only a few times. Most recently, Indiana Governor Frank O’Bannon had a massive stroke, and his office was temporarily assumed until his death.

Tennessee already has a provision in place for the death of the governor. This has only been used once in Tennessee history when Governor Austin Peay died in 1927. He was replaced by Speaker of the Senate Henry Horton.

Proposed Constitutional amendments are presented as yes or no questions. A yes vote is a vote to amend the Constitution and adopt the proposed language in the amendment. A no vote keeps the current language in the Constitution unchanged.

Two things must happen for an amendment to pass and become part of the Constitution. The first is the amendment must get more yes votes than no votes. The second is that the number of yes votes must be a majority of the total votes cast in the gubernatorial election.

AmEx, Mastercard and Visa to Track Gun Purchases

Amid pressure from anti-gun violence activists to enlist financial firms in the prevention of mass shootings, the three largest credit card companies are set to add a new merchant category code (MCC) for firearms vendors. American Express, Mastercard and Visa are the leading card payment firms in the U.S. and worldwide, and The Wall Street Journal has reported that they will implement a newly approved MCC for retailers specializing in firearms; such

retailers were previously categorized as “specialty” or “durable goods” vendors. (Firearms purchases from general retailers, such as Walmart, will not be tracked under the new MCC.) Democratic lawmakers say credit cards were used to purchase firearms that were later discharged in recent mass shootings. However, it’s not yet clear how the new MCC will assist law enforcement. (Source: The Wall Street Journal)

Applications Now Open for tnAchieves COMPLETE Grants

By Betty A. Proctor, Chattanooga State

September 16, 2022 (Chattanooga, TN) --- Tennessee Promise opened the door for thousands of high school seniors to attend community college since its inception in the fall of 2015 by providing a last-dollar scholarship to cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell Grant, HOPE scholarship, or TSAA funds. The Promise, administered by tnAchieves, recently developed COMPLETE grants of up to \$1,000 that are available to Ten-

nessee Promise students helping to ensure that unexpected financial burdens are not barriers on their path to college graduation.

The COMPLETE grant serves as additional funding that can cover costs outside of tuition and mandatory fees such as transportation to school, grocery gift card, computer/technology, supplies/tools, rent/utilities, textbooks, or class fees.

To determine eligibility, students must be eligible for a federal Pell grant and TN promise, be enrolled full-time,

complete the COMPLETE grant form in its entirety, including any necessary documentation, and connect with your tnAchieves COMPLETE coach.

Qualifying students can be awarded up to \$1,000 per academic period (periods reset August 1, December 1, and May 1), and COMPLETE grants are distributed on a first come, first served basis, as funding is limited.

According to Reed Allison, director of Financial Aid at Chattanooga State Community College, students registered

for the fall 2022 term that began August 15, were requesting concrete dollar amounts for specific textbooks/supplies.

ChattState’s second 7-week term begins October 10. Students who have not applied for a COMPLETE grant may still be able to receive funds for use until the December 1 reset period. For more information about COMPLETE, call the Financial Aid Office at (423) 697-4402 or visit the tnAchieves COMPLETE page at <https://bit.ly/3xrkLv5>.

Seven Immigrant Women Went on Strike on Friday to Demand Better Wages at a Multimillion Dollar Company; Management Fires Them via Text.

The women worked at Eventworks Rentals, the Southeast’s largest event rental provider. They organized a strike on Friday to demand the raises they said they had been promised. Management fired them via text. Workers’ Dignity supported the workers to file a claim with the National Labor Relations Board. Management’s response has not been positive.

Nashville, TN. – Seven Honduran women employees at EventWorks Rentals organized a strike and wrote a letter addressed to management on Friday 9/16 to demand the wage increases and additional staff hires that according to them management had promised them months ago. The same day, management fired most of the workers through individual text messag-

es except for one of them, who got ask to meet with human resources before clocking in on Monday 9/19. Workers’ Dignity supported the workers to file an Unfair Labor Practice with the National Labor Relations Board. On Monday 9/19, workers and supporters formed a delegation to accompany the remaining worker at her meeting with Human Resources. Despite the fact management had asked the worker to report with HR that Monday, HR refused to have a proper meeting with her. Instead, an admin staff member dismissed the workers’ federal right to organize and claimed that the company had the right to fire the workers.

“We went on strike because \$15/h is not enough to survive as a single mother

in Nashville”

– Yamina, one of the workers fired from EventWorks

The women were members of the Dish and Linen staff at EventWorks Rentals, a large event rental provider. According to them, the company prohibited them from discussing their wages with their coworkers. Also according to them, management had promised them salary raises back in the spring, but didn’t deliver. In addition to wage raises, the Dishes staff had been asking management to hire 2 additional staff members in their department for months. Workers said that they felt inspired to organize the strike after upper management denied any intention to implement wage increases during a meeting

between them, HR, and the Dish and Linen staff members.

The seven women have named their committee Las Guerreras Hondureñas (The Honduran Warriorresses) and are asking Grant Baker, EventWorks’s Nashville Market Executive, to meet the following demands:

- To give all seven workers their jobs back
- To give all seven workers salary increases of \$2/h
- To hire 1 additional staff member in the plates and 1 in the cups areas within the Dishes department