

REVEREND DR. F.N. WILLIAMS Continued from Front Page

and surrendered to the call of ministry in 1945, at the age of 16.

Rev. Dr. Williams went on to earn a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in Extended Studies from Bishop College. A military veteran, he served in the U.S. military as a Warrant Officer during the Korean War. During his time in the military, Rev. Dr. Williams served as Chaplain, and received an honorable discharge in 1950, with the rank of Corporal.

Rev. Dr. Williams accepted his first ministry appointment, as he was called to lead Greater Union Baptist Church in Matthews, Texas, as their pastor. He went on to serve as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Eagle Lake, from 1951 to 1958, and as pastor of St. John Baptist Church in Beaumont, thereafter. When his father passed away in 1958, he succeeded him as the pastor of the historic Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where he served until his passing.

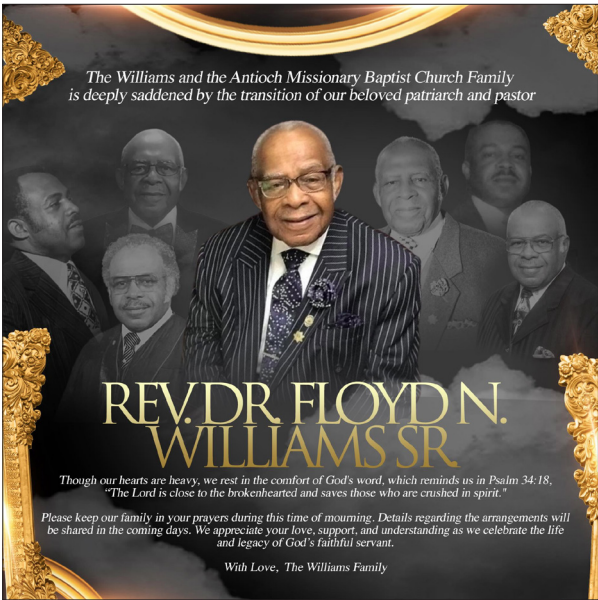
Rev. Dr. Williams watched both his father, the late Rev. M.C. Williams, and his grandfather, the late Rev. Mike Williams, face police brutality, and experience all the ills associated with being strong vocal Black leaders during their era. Both men combatted social injustice and inequality without fear or favor. His father was a fervent force in the community, who held dominant ties in the political and educational arenas. At one point, there was only one school that families in the historic Acres Home community could attend (White Oak School). Rev. M.C. Williams advocated for change. No matter how far students had to walk or travel, White Oak School was the only learning institution they could attend and that was readily available to them. Through the continued efforts of Rev. M.C. Williams, another school was eventually opened, Highland Heights, which was later named in his honor—M.C. Williams Middle School.

This generational pedigree was passed down and continued with Rev. Dr. Williams. Rev. Dr. Williams was a powerhouse who refused to take no for an answer and stayed on the frontlines when it came to key issues that impacted the Black community. His social engagement and consistent community involvement was a testament of how impactful he was outside the four walls of the church.

Rev. Dr. Williams has been an advisor to several presidents, including Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama. He was the first pastor to implement an athletic program outside of the public school system, located at his church, to provide instruction and support for Houston youth in the community.

Rev. Dr. Williams played a major role in bringing Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the City of Houston, and sat just a few seats away from him when he delivered his iconic “I Have Been to The Mountaintop” speech on April 3, 1968. In 1971, he initiated the first ever annual Martin Luther King Celebration, before it was officially declared an official holiday.

Rev. Dr. Williams was instrumental in establishing the Northwest Water District



in Houston. For 18 years, he served as Treasurer for the National Baptist Convention of America, Inc., and in 2019, he received a distinct Honorary Doctorate Degree from St. Thomas University. On August 19, 2000, Rev. Dr. Williams was inducted into the Religious Hall of Fame Elite in Dallas.

The civic and organizational affiliations that Rev. Dr. Williams was a part of included the following: Director of the Advisory Board for Standard Savings Association; Director of Houston Council on Human Relations; Director of the Northwest Water District for the City of Houston; Editor of the Globe Advocate Newspaper; member of the Human Relations Committee for HISD; Member of the Harris County Political Organization; Channel 13 Advisory Board; KYOK Radio Station Advisory Board; the Commission for Civil Court #4 (Judge Coussan); the City of Houston Mayor’s Census Committee; Board Member of the Advisory Board of the Police Commission; Member of the Houston Business and Professional Men’s Club, and many others.

Throughout the years, he maintained affiliations with numerous organizations, where he served and led in ministerial capacities, which included: Moderator of the Independent Missionary Baptist General Association (IMBGA) for nineteen years; Moderator Emeritus of the Independent Baptist General Association (IMBGA) of Texas; Vice President of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas; President Emeritus of Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas; former President of the Houston Baptist Pastors and Ministers Fellowship; Board of Directors of Rural and Urban Ministers Conference at Prairie View A&M University; Board of Directors of Church College Relations at Bishop College in Dallas, Texas; Board of Directors of Houston Metropolitan Ministries; 1st Vice President of the Baptist Ministers Association of Houston and Vicinity; Advocate and Supporter of the Texas Youth Commission; and Founder and President of the Houston Ministers Against Crime.

Rev. Dr. Williams was a hardworking man, who worked for the U.S. Post Office as a mail carrier in Trinity Gardens. He was also a longtime employee at both Joske’s and Foley’s Department Stores in Houston and worked for the Weingarten’s Supermarket chain before it was acquired by Safeway Stores in 1983. Rev. Dr. Williams also worked as a long shore waterfront worker.

A world voyager, involved in mission, humanitarian, and educational travel, his international traveling agenda included journeys to Rome, Paris, Jerusalem, Jamaica, The Philippines, England, Sweden, China, Japan, and Belize to name a few. Whether at home or abroad, Rev. Dr. Williams was always on the mission field for the Lord.

Reverend Dr. F.N. Williams has left us with a legacy that must be acknowledged and a life that must be celebrated for eternity. His impact on this city and this world will never be forgotten.

HISD Continued from Front Page

good idea. And at the end of the day, if there is no trust, then I am encouraging my constituents not to vote for the bond.”

Rep. Jolanda Jones dragged Miles and the board: “You, uncertified superintendent that was run out of Dallas, and your unelectable rubber-stamp group have created the very health and safety issues you now complain of. On one Friday, you fired up to 1200 support staff — people who could have fixed broken A/Cs and mowed the lawns. You cut essential principals, teachers, wraparound services and special-ed experts,” she said. “You wasted money on adult SoulCycles and started a \$500,000 play, instead of spending it on life-saving defibrillators. You funneled \$41 million of our Texas tax dollars to your failing Colorado charter schools. HISD wouldn’t even qualify for a \$1 million home repair loan under your current bond plan.”

“You disrespect students, parents, teachers and taxpayers, while paying administrators up to \$150,000 more than certified teachers,” she rasped. “We don’t trust or respect you, and your voters should vote against HISD Bond, Props A and B. We’re smarter than you think, and we’ll prove it at the polls. No trust, no bond,” she concluded, to cheers and applause.

Following Jones was Board Trustee [Savant Moore](#). (A North Shore High School graduate, he’s a minister at Greater Morning Star Baptist Church in Sunnyside.) “I told my congregation that the word of 2024 was ‘rebuild.’ It wasn’t co-location; it wasn’t closure. I said *rebuild*. So I can’t tell my constituents that their neighborhood school has the right to be closed.”

“We have registered thousands upon thousands this summer, and on October 21st through Nov. 1st, we will be at the polls. And one thing that I appreciate: the Republican chair and the Democratic chair. For the first time in history, we are bipartisan on something,” he said. “They came to me and said that I should have the same quality education on my side of town that they have on the West side, that my children should not have to get on a bus to go to the best school.”

Next came the students, started by fifth-grader Edita Sage-Bitner. “I know adults want us to do well at school. But students are more than test scores. We have dreams, talents and interests that can’t be measured on a bubble sheet or completion status. Imagine if Harry Potter was only judged by his grades at Hogwarts. He’d still be in the cupboard under the stairs.”

“We need teachers who are passionate and qualified to teach Career & Technology Education (CTE) classes. How can we learn without great teachers to guide us? NO ONE would take potions class if *Snape* wasn’t there to teach it,” she said. “And most importantly, we need options that match our diverse interests. Every kid is different.”

The next child, Luka Candida, read a statement that adults translated from Spanish. “I used to like school but now... a little less,” he said. “It feels different. It used to be that we had lots of parents

volunteering helping out the teachers but now they’re not there because of all the exams. All the teachers are stressed out; they’re afraid. They’re tired, and they also get angry quicker.” He ended with poignant questions: “I’ve been coming for about a year, talking. When are you going to listen to children like myself?” he asked. “Do your children need to begin hating school for you to care about it?”

Student Naya Dewart: “You want us to say yes to spending \$4.4 billion on schools, but it could turn into \$8.9 billion in debt over 30 years. That’s a lot more money. Families could already have a hard time paying for everything. We all know schools need money, but how can we agree to this without knowing for sure it will help us?”

Sehani Dewart was more direct: “Mr. Miles: we’re on the second year of your undemocratic takeover and you still haven’t improved HISD. Libraries and books have been replaced by unused spin bikes, map tests and team-related detention centers. Our curriculum, which is partially AI-generated, values standardized testing over good teachers or extra time for something fun,” she said. “You sent millions of tax dollars to your charter school in Colorado and expect us to trust you with \$4.4 billion when that Third Future money could go towards making sure students aren’t drinking lead.”

“Ms. Momanaee, at the last meeting you were more worried about an F-bomb than honoring the student who died because you trusted Mike Miles’ plans, which never involved checking [AEDs](#). Board of managers, don’t expect us to trust you! No trust, no bond,” Dewart thundered as the crowd applauded.

Several students read letters by former HISD employees who left post-takeover. Yasmine Yearwood, an eighth-grade student, read a statement by a certified teacher who taught at a non-NES elementary School but left the district. “I absolutely love my school. My principal co-workers, students and parents were amazing, and I will miss them dearly. I’m losing the district due to F. Mike Miles,” he said. The orders coming down from the top were ridiculous and I could not in good faith remain in my position. I’m here to teach children, not hurt them.”

Ella Taylor, the final student speaker, attends Carnegie Vanguard High School. She also read a letter by a departed teacher with 16 years of experience: “I left because of the increasing disrespect shown to certified elective teachers and an unwillingness to take part in an educational system that I believe is harmful to children.”

Lea Kiefer ceded her time to her daughter, a student at Harvard Elementary. She read a statement too – this one from a certified library services member who was fired by HISD and now works for another district: “The entire library services team was cut by a reduction in force. We provided training and support to all campus libraries, literacy programs like ‘Name that Book,’ and the Astros literacy bus, maintained collection records and access of digital resources. Apparently, none of this is aligned to Destination 2035.”

Name that Book (NTB) was a year-long event which celebrated literature for young people from kindergarten to high school. The program was started over 50 years ago by Maxine Jackson, a River Oaks Elementary librarian. “For me, ‘Name That Book’ was like a safe space, and I could be myself and make new friends. And the loss of all these librarians has really made me sad,” Kiefer’s daughter added.

“How do y’all plan to prepare students for the workforce and college when you continue to run off experienced teachers and replace them with uncertified staff and AI-generated packets?” asked HISD parent Kelly Blikre. She read the words of a certified teacher who changed districts after being part of a ‘reduction in force’: “I helped make the first convocation happen and can say with confidence that Miles almost bankrupted the district trying to get the location moved.”

Advocate Diana Candida said data is being cherry-picked and used to mislead the public: “The bond proposed by Mr. Miles will not help Houston’s children. It will not help fulfill our community vision and values. Only 39% of voters support a property tax increase to fund a bond. The claim that it won’t increase taxes is false [...] Not only has Miles created a toxic working environment for teachers and precipitated a decline in student enrollment, but he has a track record of mismanaging public funds.”

“Mr. Miles, when you introduced yourself to our community with a half-million-dollar play all about how great you are, I knew there was going to be some drama,” said student Ava Christian, “and so far, that’s the only promise you have kept. You fired our custodians, and now our schools look a mess. You fired our wraparound specialists, and

now some of my friends can’t get what they need. And you fired my principal without reason.” She compared Miles to Ms. Trunchbull, from *Matilda*: “Both of you are mean and incompetent bullies,” she said. “No trust, no bond.”

The bond’s many opponents now include former Mayor Sylvester Turner. “I am a product of public schools and have spent my life and career advocating for a quality public education for every child,” he said Oct. 14. “But I cannot support this ill-considered bond proposal.”

CLASSIFIEDS
PUBLIC NOTICE

Cellco Partnership and its Controlled Affiliates Doing Business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a 44-foot 2-inches monopole communication tower at the approx. vicinity of 17531 2/3 Cypress N Houston Road, Houston, Harris County, TX, 77433. The coordinates of the tower are Lat: 29-56-34.8318 N, Long: 95-40-51.1824 W. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Mitra Rahimi, m.rahimi@trileaf.com, 2550 S I-35 Frontage Rd, Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposal – Houston-Galveston Area Council – Public Services – Refuse Handling Equipment – RH04-25

H-GAC is soliciting responses for selecting qualified manufacturers, dealers, and distributors of refuse handling equipment to make these types of products available to Customers of the HGACBuy Cooperative Purchasing Program.

To view the solicitation documents, visit <https://www.hgacbuy.org/bid-notice> or ESBD@txsmartbuy.com.

Response Deadline: November 21, 2024 @ 12:00 P.M. CST

LEGAL NOTICE for IFB 24-40

The Houston Housing Authority (“HHA”) is soliciting sealed bids with the intent to establish a fixed price contract with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who can perform all the necessary work needed to facilitate solid waste management services, in accordance with the requirements and terms and conditions specified in Invitation for Bid (IFB) 24-40

Interested parties who wish to respond to this solicitation must submit the required documents to the below individual by 2 P.M. Central Standard Time (CST) November 14, 2024, to Houston Housing Authority Attn: Austin Ng, Subject: IFB 24-40 Solid Waste Management Services - DO NOT OPEN 2640 Fountain View Drive Houston, Texas 77057.

IFB 24-40 can be obtained by going to the doing business with HHA section of HHA’s website at www.housingforhouston.com, or by sending an e-mail to HHA’s Procurement Dept. at Purchasing@housingforhouston.com

Equal Fair and Equal Employment Opportunity Agency. For assistance: Individuals with disabilities may contact the 504/ADA Administrator at 713-260-0528, TTY 713-260-0574 or 504ADA@housingforhouston.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Choice Partners (CP), a division of Harris County Department of Education (HCDE), is a national cooperative that will be accepting proposals in response to the following Request for Proposals (RFP). Interested proposers may go to www.choicepartners.org and register to download the solicitation or call **877-696-2122**.

• **RFP 25/006SG – Early Childhood Supplies and Related Items are due by Tuesday, October 29, 2024 @ 2:00 PM CT**

All proposals must be submitted via the HCDE online eBid System at the following link: <https://hcdeebid.ionwave.net>.

Proposals will be opened via Zoom; Information regarding dates, times, and a link to join the meeting is located within the eBid System under the “Activities” tab specific to the solicitation.

HELP WANTED

**Operations Manager
Houston (Harris County)**

Manage and coordinate the transportation of vehicle inventory. Manage storage. Monitor and manage aging inventory.. Maintain records of vehicle acquisitions, transfers, and sales. Develop and manage budgets. Identify cost-saving opportunities. Negotiate logistics agreements. Maintain strong relationships with key vendors.

Requires at least 2 years of experience working as operations manager coordinating logistics. Send resume to: danycarautohouston@gmail.com. Danycar Auto Houston, LLC.

HELP WANTED

Market Research Analyst for Zima Dynamic LLC, F/T in Houston, TX. Analyze market trends and marketing methods of our company and competitors; assess our marketing strategies’ performance and develop improvement solutions; Gather and analyze market-related information and data by various research methods; Utilize related data and findings to develop marketing strategies. Master’s degree in Business Administration & 12-month related work experience. Email resumes Samuel.leo@zimashuttle.us.