

REMEMBER, LEST WE FORGET
 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis. This year marks the 40th anniversary of his death.

New hope for hospice patients

By Barbra Harris

Jackson Advocate News Service

Last month, Sen. James Inhofe and Rep. John Sullivan, both Republicans from Oklahoma, introduced legislation in Congress to ensure that dying Medicare patients have access to the hospice services Congress promised them.



Inhofe



Sullivan

The Preserving Access to Hospice (PATH) Act establishes a 3-year moratorium on collections on the hospice cap which currently requires hospices to pay back money Medicare paid them to care for dying patients who were eligible for hospice services.

The PATH Act would amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a temporary moratorium on enforcement of the cap amount on payments for hospice care under the Medicare Program.

The PATH Act also directs the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to study and report on:

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Criminal justice confab on tap

By Alice Thomas-Tisdale

Jackson Advocate Publisher

The state of Mississippi has the fourth highest incarceration rate in the nation. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Mississippi will take a stab at reforming the state's criminal justice system during a statewide conference this weekend. The two-day event will be held April 4 at the Edison Walthall Hotel, 255 E.

Capitol Street in Jackson, and Saturday, April 5 at Tougaloo College's Health and Wellness Center.

"The ACLU launched its criminal justice reform project three years ago after continuing to receive complaints about racial profiling and prison/jail abuses," said Nsombi

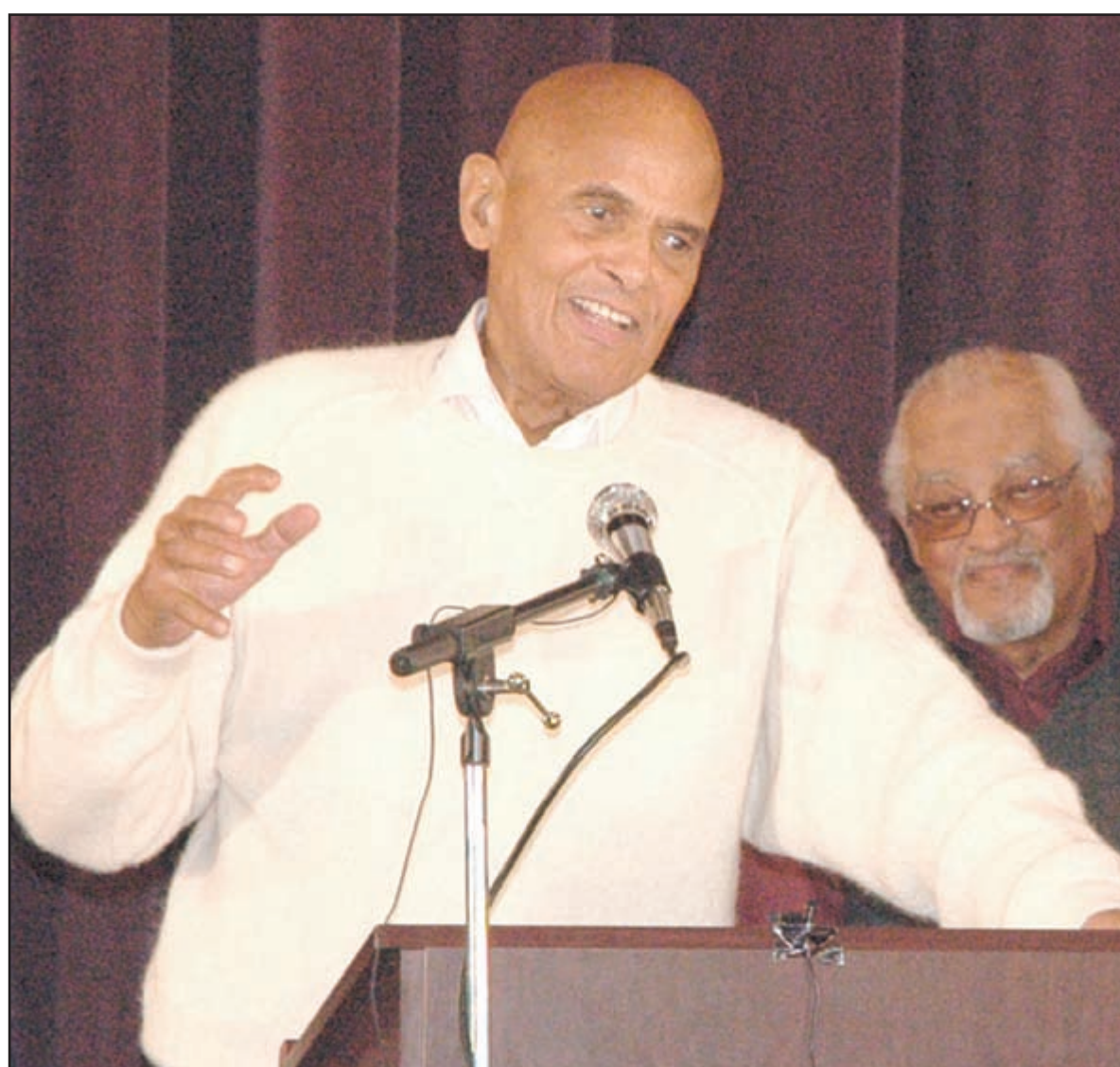
Lambright, Executive Director of the state ACLU.

Just last week a rally/march was held in Canton to protest racial profiling. A total of 13 people were arrested during the march, including a pregnant woman and organizer David Archie. "Keep marching," Archie urged marchers as police handcuffed him. Police say protestors violated the law when they did not obtain a permit to march.

Although the march may not have gone according to plan, Archie said, "Now is the time" to end racial profiling by Madison County Sheriff's Department officers. "We are demanding an end to violations of our constitutional rights. To do that, the sheriff's office has to stop the illegal road-blocks targeting African

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'I STILL CAN'T TRUST MISSISSIPPI'



Harry Belafonte (with The Rev. Owen Brooks in background) is counted among the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement for risking his life to bring \$70,000 to aid the civil rights struggle during the turbulent 1960s, Belafonte told a gathering of about 350 at the Masonic Temple in Jackson Saturday, March 29, 2008 that he is holding out on giving Mississippi a passing grade on race relations. "When I arrived at the Jackson airport, I noticed the police officers were black. That wasn't the case when I first came to Mississippi. I also noticed a display for Medgar Evers and that the airport was named for him. But I still can't quite trust Mississippi," he said. (Photo: Alice Thomas-Tisdale/Jackson Advocate)

Civil rights veterans revisit Jackson for third conference

By Earnest McBride

Jackson Advocate Contributor Editor

More than 300 civil rights activists from the crucial years that swung the American South from a bastion of violence-laden separate-but-equal, white-supremacist monstrosity of yesterday to a slightly milder system of desegregated – and unspoken – white supremacist social passivity today gathered once more at the Jackson State University E-Center for three days to assess the outcome of their efforts from long ago.

Shortly after celebrating his 81st birthday on March 3, international social activist, premier

actor, world-class singer and ultimate role model for every child anywhere in the universe, Harry Belafonte – the ageless "tiger," in journalist Amy Goodman's characterization – returned to Mississippi to continue some of the work he began more than 40 years ago.

Belafonte's focus was as much on Greenwood as on Jackson, the focal point of the three-day conference. Belafonte established his base of operations in Greenwood after the ignominious murder of

Medgar Edgar in Jackson in June 1963.

Almost as a counterbalance to the electrically-charged Belafonte (America's right wingers go ballistic each time he comes into the public spotlight in support of some worthwhile cause.) the ambassador of Joy, novelist Alice Walker urged the 300-plus dinner audience to go about their work with a smile of contentment on their faces.

"Joy is another name for freedom," Walker said in her Friday evening keynote address at the Masonic Lodge on Lynch Street, several blocks east of the JSU

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Walker

Single mother of four determined to end vicious cycle of poverty

By Alice Thomas-Tisdale

Jackson Advocate Publisher

Shannon Anderson is a 30-year-old single mother of four who is waging a one-woman battle against the Jackson Public School District. Last month her nine-year-old son, Oren, was transferred to Capital City Alternative School from Timberlawn Elementary School as a disciplinary measure for carrying a pellet gun to school. Oren just meets the grade requirement at Capital City which accepts students in grades 4-12. Anderson's main complaint is that Capital City's rules serve to punish the parent as well as the student.

"If Oren misses the bus, I'm not allowed to take him to school. That's crazy. When he misses the bus, he's home for the day and I

miss going to work. I only make \$7.50 an hour as it is. I can't afford to miss a day. It takes \$42 to fill up my tank. I need a full check just to try to get by.

Why can't I take him to school?" Anderson said when she told Capital City administrators that she was going to the media to voice her concern, they agreed she could bring her son to school when he missed the bus. "But that's not right. Why does it take going to the media for them to do what's right. I'm not in this just for me. What

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Anderson

Alphonso Jackson forced out at HUD

By Earnest McBride

Jackson Advocate Contributing Editor

The words most often heard in communities wherever Bush Administration HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson paid one of his infamous whirlwind visits were nearly always: "He doesn't care."

From New Orleans and the Hurricane Katrina-impacted communities along the Mississippi Gulf Coast up through Chicago, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, a visit from Jackson to any of the large urban communities facing housing problems almost always ended with some kind of deal being made that favored the profiteering big developers and property speculators over the interests of the people who actually lived in these federally subsidized public housing projects.

Jackson's tenure at HUD is "tarnished by allegations of political favoritism and a criminal investiga-



Alphonso Jackson

tion," according to the Associated Press reports released Tuesday. Jackson leaves behind him "the wreckage of the national housing crisis," the AP reports say. "He leaves behind a trail of unanswered questions about whether he tilted the Department of Housing and

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West Jackson Catholic school gets top honor at JSU science fair

JANS – Sister Thea Bowman Elementary Catholic School principal Ann Hardy is ecstatic over her school taking top honors again at the 2008 Mississippi Science & Engineering Fair Region II held at Jackson State University on March 27.

Fifth grade student Christopher Green captured the overall science fair award "Best of Fair" for Class

2 (4th-6th grade) for the second straight year. He won three other awards: first place in the category of Zoology, the JSU Department of Biology Award with a cash prize of \$200, and the LogoStoreUSA Special Award. His project was "Hanging in the pH Balance: Acid and Brine Shrimp." The ten year old Green also received a trophy and medal.

Sixth grader Tiara Ellis took the fifth place award in the area of Medicine and Health. Ellis' science fair project was "Which Water is the Safest – Bottle or Tap?"

Nearly 800 students representing 89 schools from central Mississippi in grades 1-6 competed in the science fair covering Copiah, Claiborne, Hinds, Jefferson,

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Dr. Wilbur Walters, director of the Science Review Committee at Jackson State University, presents Christopher Green with his Best of Fair trophy at the Mississippi Science and Engineering Fair.



Sister Thea Bowman Science Fair participants (Photos: Thea Thomas Faulkner)

Poverty

about all the other parents who can't take their child to school if they miss the bus?"

The difficulty with Oren getting to the front of his apartment complex to meet the bus between 6:45 a.m. and 7:15 a.m. is that he suffers from Attention Deficient Disorder (ADD) and Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD). "Oren leaves the apartment in time to meet the bus, but I can't take him to the bus stop. I have three other children to get ready every morning. I can't wait until the bus comes. Oren is easy to get distracted, so he may miss the bus because he's doing something else, or is walking too slow," explained Anderson.

Once Oren leaves his mother's sight, about the only help he has is a Daytrana patch to keep him focused and a M-tab of Risperdal to keep him calm. But what about the days he takes off the patch or refuses his pills? "I don't like the way the medicine makes me feel. It makes me feel bad," says Oren. However, when he does take his medicine he performs better in class.

"I don't give him any medication on the weekends. I try to give him a break. I know it's hard on him, but it's hard on me, too. I have to tell him 10 times to clean up his room, and it probably still won't get done. He just can't stay focused, and he likes being defiant. I don't like that," she said.

It probably doesn't help matters much that Oren is as cute as a button. "That's what gets him into trouble. Everybody thinks he's so adorable. Then when he acts up, they don't want anything to do with him," she said.

Anderson is facing a similar dilemma with her seven-year daughter. "Jabrielle is showing the same signs of having an attention deficient disorder. She's not doing her work. I'm strongly considering putting her on medication," Anderson said, seemingly overwhelmed with her children's behavioral problems. "I really believe it's a hereditary gene," she said.

Anderson's 13-year old son, Alonte', has great promise but she's worried about his declining grades. "Alonte' could do a lot better. He's not applying himself like he did in elementary school. He used to bring home trophy after trophy. There's something about middle school that's making him want to be accepted by the other boys," said Anderson. Alonte' has a male mentor, but the absence of a father in the home concerns Anderson. "It does make a difference," she said. "All I have is the kids, and all they have is me."

In today's economy, caring for four children is no small undertaking. Buying uniforms for three school-aged children is a major purchase in the Anderson household. Now that Oren is at Capital City, Anderson has had to dip into the family reserve. "They can only wear white shirts and khaki pants. The other students in the district can wear blue or khaki. And at Capital City, the students have to wear either black shoes with black socks or white shoes with white socks. What difference does it make what color socks you wear? You can't see them under the pants anyway. I don't understand why the dress code is different at Capital City when it's still in the district."

Some people may question Anderson's openness about her children's behavior and school performance. However, she says it's her way of protecting them. "You should see the reports they have in my children's files. These files will follow them wherever they go. One report says my poor parenting skills caused Oren's deficiency. Another report says my kids have good family support, but notes possible child abuse. "How can you have good family support and be accused of child abuse on the next page?" questions Anderson. "My children are being set up to fail," she believes.

Anderson knows all too well how important a quality education is. She dropped out of school in the 11th grade, and actually stopped going to class regularly in the 9th grade. "I didn't have the support I needed. I want to make sure my kids get all the help they need," she said. "When I look at my classmates, they're all doing better than me. They all have college degrees and have good paying jobs. Compared to them, I'm at the bot-

tom," she said.

To Anderson's credit, she went back to school and obtained a GED. She has a low paying job, but campaigns for as many hours as she can to provide food, shelter, and clothing for her children. The federal government chips in with subsidized housing, food stamps, and medical coverage, but only for the children.

Two years ago Anderson was catching the city bus to get from point A to B. Now she owns a fairly reliable vehicle. For herself, she still doesn't have a decent wardrobe, but that's not a priority. "I want a house for my children with a backyard for them to play. We've come a long way from Christian Brotherhood Apartments. This apartment complex is new and has only 8 buildings with 8 units. Christian Brotherhood had 25 buildings with eight units. The people in this complex all work, and my kids get to play with well-behaved kids.

"This is not the end for me. I'm determined to get more out of life for me and my kids," vows Anderson.

A second disciplinary hearing with Jackson Public Schools is set for next week to determine if Oren will remain at Capital City through March 2009 or return to Timberlawn in the fall 2008.

Jackson

Urban Development toward Republican contractors and cronies.

As recently as January, Jackson gave Republican Governor Haley Barbour the go-ahead in an unfathomable scheme to transfer \$600 million in federally-allocated Katrina housing recovery funds to a port-renovation project geared to help defense contractor giants like Northrup-Grumman and Haliburton and the ever-growing nearby casino industry.

Jackson's long anticipated displacement from the Bush cabinet comes at a shaky time for the administration, with soaring mortgage foreclosures imperiling the nation's credit markets, according to the AP.

Katrina housing activist Kirby Sommers, a New York realtor who led a national campaign to supply shelter to those left homeless by Hurricane Katrina, accuses the major media of New Orleans of covering up for Jackson.

"The failure of the *Times Picayune* to seriously address the ongoing criminal investigation of HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson provides cover for what may well be the illegal awarding of so called redevelopment contracts tied to the demolition of public housing in New Orleans," Sommers said when the scandal first broke last week. "Jackson is now under a federal grand jury investigation linking him to bid rigging concerning the so-called redevelopment contracts for the St. Bernard Housing Development and the C.J. Peete Development. The investigation of these allegations of corruption against Jackson should be covered by the *Times Picayune*. But they've shared nothing."

"Federal investigators, the FBI, and a Washington, D.C., grand jury are digging even deeper into Jackson's affairs and discovering further connections, including a 'stucco contractor' with whom Jackson is pals and to whom the HUD secretary helped award a contract worth about \$500,000 for work in New Orleans," Sommers reports. "Also revealed: Jackson's wife Marcia, now a D.C.-based consultant, also had 'financial ties to at least two companies that did business at' the Housing Authority of New Orleans (or HANO), one of which is a Houston-based company called Metroplex Core, whose president was a President Bush appointee"

It was Jackson's attempt to shakedown the head of the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) on behalf of another Jackson crony, music don Kenny Gamble, that led to his downfall. PHA director Carl R. Greene went public earlier this year and exposed Jackson's recurrent pattern of extorting favors from agencies served by HUD.

"On Feb. 4, Greene, who is widely considered one of the nation's most successful housing authority directors, revealed that he had filed a lawsuit claiming that Jackson had pressured him to transfer valuable townhouse sites to music mogul Kenny Gamble at rock-bottom prices," the *Philadel-*

phia Inquirer reported Monday. "When Greene balked, the suit alleges that Jackson retaliated by vowing to strip PHA of a key \$50 million grant. If HUD carries out the threatened funding cutoff, the flow of money for building low-rise public housing in Philadelphia could stop cold starting tomorrow. And if that happens, the neighbors who cheered the implosion of Mantua Hall may have to spend years with a block-size empty lot in their midst."

Greene announced Monday that if Jackson's threat to cut off federal funds to Philadelphia, the city's housing authority won't be able to start any new housing projects at all

"In the name of retaliating against me, Alphonso would retaliate against the whole city," Greene complained yesterday after the dignitaries and residents had melted back into the city to attend to their respective Sunday activities. He doesn't care about working-class people losing their houses. He doesn't care about people in the Northeast being inundated with Section 8 housing."

Jackson came to Washington with the Bush Administration as deputy secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Before then, he had been a high-profile housing and real estate executive in Dallas and a firm supporter of then-Governor George W. Bush, on whom he pinned his political fortunes.

In October, the *National Journal* first reported on the criminal investigation of Jackson. "The FBI has been examining the ties between Jackson and a friend who was paid \$392,000 by Jackson's department as a construction manager in New Orleans," the *Journal* reported. "Jackson's friend got the job after Jackson asked a staff member to pass along his name to the Housing Authority of New Orleans."

Jackson's problems began in 2006, when he told a group of commercial real estate executives that he had revoked a contract because the applicant who thanked him said he did not like President Bush. Jackson later told investigators "I lied" when he made the remark about taking back the contract.

One man who knows both the motives and *modus operandi* of Alphonso Jackson is famed civil rights attorney Alvin Chambliss, the lead lawyer in the 30-year-long Ayers desegregation case that sought to equalize Mississippi's black and white state colleges and universities.

Chambliss, the owner of a home in the devastated 9th Ward in New Orleans, was a close associate of HUD Secretary Jackson when Chambliss taught at Texas Southern University Law School during the time of George Bush's ascendancy to the governor's office.

"Some of this demolition was planned before Katrina," Chambliss says. "But after Katrina hit, the city council passed an ordinance saying they had to get approval.

"Now here's the problem, you're talking about getting rid of approximately 5,000 units of housing. You're going to replace the 5,000 with less than 1,000. The fact of the matter is that the only guarantee is that only 1,000 houses will replace the ones destroyed.

"There are five different projects that were not touched by the storm that the people could occupy today," Chambliss says. "But they are boarded up. On one hand they're demolishing thousands of units of public housing, without any attempt to rehabilitate any of them. The other argument is that you have four public housing projects usable now that HUD isn't saying anything about. They were slated to be made into condominiums for rich white folks once the situation was clear.

"Now, nobody is looking at the housing that could be occupied today. At least 90 percent of public housing could be opened up for occupation now," Chambliss said.

"Alphonso Jackson, whose business is in housing and has been throughout his career in Texas, is the person responsible for allowing the demolition of public housing for blacks in order to let wealthy whites exclude blacks from their original neighborhoods," Chambliss said.

On the basis of several legal complaints filed by Chambliss, federal investigators took the state of Texas to court and got a ruling that said that Texas Southern and Prairie View were first-class universities and were entitled to the same level of funding given to the University

of Texas and Texas A. & M. Prairie View was the first public university to come into existence in Texas, Chambliss says.

Although Jackson was the vice chairman of the Texas Southern Board, he was willing to betray the interests of the historically black college in order to keep Bush's image from being tainted with a racially-based lawsuit, according to Chambliss.

"I am on George Bush's side, and I'm not going to allow anything to get in the way of his becoming President," Chambliss says Jackson told him during the early stages of his preparation of the lawsuit against the state of Texas on behalf of the historically black schools there. "I know that when he (Bush) goes to Washington that I'll have a pretty high position in the administration. So we're not interested in presenting him with an embarrassing situation, not if I can help it."

Chambliss says he could not get the money to pursue the lawsuit, so he agreed to settle the suit for \$200 million. Prairie View and Texas Southern got about \$100 million each, Chambliss said. But the two schools were entitled to PUF funds, money that came from the oil and gas production in all of Texas. The two main public universities in Texas, University of Texas and Texas A & M, were getting the PUF funds, enough money that made UT the most well-endowed university in the nation, with an endowment of over \$20 billion, larger even than that of Harvard University.

"Alphonso Jackson compromised the integrity of Texas Southern and Prairie View," Chambliss said, "in order to get a position within the Bush administration. And now look what he's doing to his own black people for the benefit of people who don't look like him and who will never accept him as one of their own."

Science

Madison, Rankin, and Warren counties. Thea Bowman students from 4-6 grade participated in the event. They included Green and Ellis, along with fourth graders Darinesha Yarn and Taylon Anderson. Fifth graders included Christopher Green, Robert Green, David Hubbard, and Terry Morris. Sixth graders included Tiara Ellis, Nathaniel Horton, David Green, Eva Williams, Marcarius Bankston, Kie'sha Wildee, Keitra Wilson, Ukinnje Blackmon, Ashley Bankhead, Christine Davis and Lyric Richards. The students qualified for the Region II Science Fair by winning first through third place at the school.

Principal Hardy says she is pleased with the school's showing and looks forward to next year's competition. Adrienne Blackburn is the Science teacher at Thea Bowman.

This is Sister Thea Bowman's second year in existence since the blending of Christ the King Pre-School and St. Mary Catholic Elementary School. Sister Thea Bowman offers PreK3 through 6th grades, and is located at 1217 Hattiesburg Street.

Justice

Americans. We are also calling for an end to excessive bonds," said Archie. Supporters of the Madison County Rally and March for Justice said an independent watchdog panel is needed to review citizen complaints against the sheriff's department, which have increased after last Thursday's arrests. Another rally is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2008. Whether or not a permit to march will be applied for is unknown.

"Reforming the criminal justice system is critical to everyone's public safety," Lambricht said. "We are all left vulnerable as long as law enforcement and policy makers rely on 'tough on crime' initiatives such as building more jails and racial profiling to address crime in communities."

On tap for discussion will be the use of tasers, unexplained jail deaths, excessive force, zero-tolerance behavior policies and unjust sentencing practices. Cedric Willis, Elicia Hughes and Sabrina Butler Porter will share their experiences while incarcerated on Friday at 6:30 p.m. Human rights attorneys and experts in justice policy will address juvenile justice, prison and jail abuse and felony disfranchisement.

The NAACP and the Tougaloo College Pre-Law Society are con-

ference co-sponsors.

"Formerly incarcerated persons and those around them find themselves victim to harsher police practices, joblessness and community isolation," commented Derrick Johnson, President of the Mississippi State Conference NAACP. "The conference will explore policies and practices that lead people into the criminal justice system, what happens to them while they're inside of the system and what services are available to them once released from the system," he said.

Sessions include: "Neighborhood-base accountability projects: Cop Watch, Court Watch, Civilian Review Boards," "The High Cost of Prison," "Felony Re-enfranchisement: Voting is a Human Right," "Disrupted Lives: Testimonies of the Wrongfully Incarcerated," "An Assessment of Human Rights in the U.S.," "Juvenile Justice (School to Prison Pipeline): How does the incarceration of youth impact our communities?" and "Re-entry issues: record expunction, employment, housing, etc."

For additional information, contact the ACLU of MS at 601-573-3978 or the NAACP at 601-353-8452.

Hospice

- The resource effectiveness and quality of hospice care as a substitute benefit for other acute care alternatives under Medicare;
- The optimal median and average length of stay in hospice care under Medicare;
- The reasons for persistently low median and average length of such stays; and
- The desirability of requiring a national coverage determination of eligibility for hospice care under Medicare.

"Without this legislation and the moratorium it implements, many hospices may be forced to deny care to terminally ill Medicare beneficiaries, resulting in the loss of choice for patients and the loss of local jobs, a situation I find unacceptable," Sullivan said.

"Hospices provide our nation's seniors with an end-of-life option that will allow them to live out their final days surrounded by their loved ones," he said. "My legislation will bring transparency to the entire Medicare hospice benefit process and ensure that Medicare seniors still have this hospice option."

There is bipartisan support for the PATH Act among members of Congress in many states, including Mississippi.

"We want to thank our legislators from Mississippi for co-sponsoring this legislation, which includes Sen. Roger Wicker, Sen. Thad Cochran, Cong. Bennie Thompson, Cong. Chip Pickering and Cong. Gene Taylor," Carmella Harper, administrator of Compassionate Hospice Care, said.

The Hospice cap threatens end-of-life care for thousands of Americans, especially those in rural and inner-city areas.

Because of a flawed federal law, Mississippi hospices are forced to repay the federal government for serving eligible patients. This problem is exacerbated in rural areas where patients are served by primarily independent hospices based in their communities.

"Patients should have the choice and right to access hospice services. They paid for Medicare throughout their career and should have access to it when they need it," Harper contends.

The PATH Act provides a temporary solution that will provide relief for Mississippi hospices and patients affected by the flawed federal law.

"Compassionate Hospice Care has been serving our community for the past two years and although we have not been directly affected by the hospice cap as of yet. We are very concerned about the people in Mississippi having access and a choice for hospice services," Harper said.

Hospice services provide pain management, symptom control, personal care and hygiene, assistance with activities of daily living, spiritual support, family support and education, social services, volunteers and bereavement services.

Conference

campus. She contrasted this attitude of joy with the state of mind she found herself in when she first came to Mississippi from Georgia in 1966.

"Growing up in Georgia was depressing," she said. "And when I came to Mississippi, it was to find you."

During her seven-year stay in Mississippi, Walker deliberately sought to break as many of the old laws underpinning segregation as she possibly could. She even married "illegally," she confessed, as she was married to a white civil rights worker while in the state."

It is better to get out there and be a target rather than cowering," she said, urging the massive dinner audience to recommit to a life of activism to confront the current social hypocrisy.

Belafonte brought with him a dozen or so members of his youth organization, the Gathering for Justice, a hopeful group of visionaries with visions of uniting with other youths across the country, in keeping with the theme of the three-day conference.

"Youth will plan and share their ideas," reads one of the flyers directed towards the young people at the gathering. "Youth will build. Come build with us."

Belafonte's life is itself a vast tome of social activism with a special meaning, one sensitive to the racial hypocrisy and prejudice that prevailed during most of his life. As a native-born citizen of Caribbean parentage, Belafonte used his vantage point as a well-loved public figure to push for the cause of civil rights.

As an active sponsor and supporter of the Mississippi Summer of 1964, Belafonte says he brought a "large, large, large sum of money to his base in Greenwood. And Sydney Poitier came down with me."

The money was called for in an emergency, Belafonte said. "Many of the students had come down to Mississippi as a part of the Freedom Summer project."

Belafonte told of his harrowing moments after setting out to do his work for the Freedom Summer Project in Mississippi.

"I flew into Jackson and from there, we went to Greenwood via private plane," he said. "Once we landed in Greenwood, the Ku Klux Klan got wind of our presence and began following us. We were able to contact our civil rights base in Greenwood and the people there came out on the highway to join us and to protect us as we went about our way. We were able to get through our first days on the scene in this way."

Belafonte looks upon this conference of the Veterans of the Civil Right Movement as a very important event with a special meaning in so many lives.

"Some of those young people who bonded together with us in the early days of the Mississippi struggle are now some of the elders among the veterans," Belafonte said. "For this reunion, they've asked Alice Walker and me to come down to speak to them of those years and to help raise funds to keep the light of freedom shining upon their great work of years ago. This movement is beginning to pick up momentum again as they are dealing with social and economic issues of today."

The Rev. Owen Brooks recalls his work of more than 50 years in the civil rights battle, beginning in 1948. Brooks is the director and treasurer of the board of the Veterans of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement.

"I think that what Harry Belafonte is doing in stimulating youth involvement with the important social causes of our day is both inspiring and reassuring," Brooks said. "With this effort at including youth at the center of his program and getting those youths involved with others of their age, this all works to direct them from the negative activities that we commonly identify with today's youths. This is certainly a welcome chance for them to channel their energies in a positive direction."

CORRECTION: The Women's History Month salute to Peggy Crowell was attributed to Alex. It should have been attributed to Weymoth. Weymoth is the husband; Alex is their son. The salute is featured again on page 6A. The Crowells are valuable members of this community. We sincerely regret this error.