

T I M U E L D . B L A C K



100

CENTENARY CELEBRATION



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

President Robert J. Zimmer
and the Office of Civic Engagement
are pleased to celebrate

Timuel Black

on his 100th birthday.

**Alumnus. Leader. Historian. Teacher.
Activist. Hero.**

We salute the contributions you have
made to all of our communities,
especially the South Side.



BARACK OBAMA

December 7, 2018



Michelle and I send our warmest wishes to Timuel Black, his wife, Zenobia, and all of you celebrating the 100th birthday of our beloved friend, mentor, and South Side icon.

I met Tim just after I moved to Chicago—I had just moved to the “sacred ground,” as Tim explains it. We sat across from each other at Medici on 57th—the rookie South Side organizer on one side of the table and the veteran South Side historian on the other. And it was during that first conversation that I learned of Tim’s deep well of empathy. Down the block or across the city, no matter your background or station in life, if you are from Chicago, then Tim is looking out for you. And I admired that. And I was inspired by that, because he wanted to talk about how to make life better for people all across the city, how to bring about greater equality, and how to keep us moving toward our more perfect union. And, perhaps the most important part, after talking about it, he gets out there and does something about it, rolls up his sleeves and gets to work.



Tim’s lifetime of service is a testament to just how powerful it is to wield love stronger than hate, and just how much progress we can make when we bring a group of compassionate people together to challenge our country’s conscience. Because he devoted his gifts—of community organizing and of storytelling, of listening and of mobilizing—to our city, young people across Chicago can dream a little bigger and they can aim a little higher, and, for that, we owe Tim a profound debt of gratitude.

May you all enjoy celebrating one of our extraordinary neighbors, and please know Michelle and I send you all our very best for a holiday season filled with much joy and a wonderful year ahead.

BOBBY L. RUSH

1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEE

RAISING MONEY, ENERGY
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

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TWITTER: @PRR/BobbyRush

December 7, 2018

***A LETTER IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS OF
TIMUEL D. BLACK***

Dear Timuel:

It is both an honor and pleasure to extend my warmest regards to you as you celebrate your 100th birthday. Reaching such a significant milestone in life is truly a blessing from God.

Throughout the last 80 years you have educated us with your scholarship and authorship; you have honorably served our nation during the dark days of World War II; and you have been a strong and persistent voice in support of social justice and black political leadership. Many of our nation's most prominent African American leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Mayor Harold Washington, and President Barack Obama, have benefited from your wise counsel. I too have been the beneficiary of your insight and informed advise. Your life's work has truly made a powerful impact locally and on the world's stage.

So, on this, your 100th birthday, I encourage you to remain steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor has not been in vain. As you enjoy this life celebration with family and friends, know that I salute you. May you continue to let your light shine, so the fruits of your labor are always blessed.

On behalf of those I serve in the First Congressional District of Illinois, please accept my congratulations and best wishes on your 100th birthday.

Sincerely,

*Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress*





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY

118 NORTH CLARK STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602
(312) 603-4600
TDD: (312) 603-5255



TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT

December 7, 2018

Dear Timuel:

As President of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and on behalf of the residents of Cook County, I would like to congratulate you on the momentous and joyful occasion of your 100th birthday.

Over the years your work and passion has touched many lives, including my own. From soldier, activist, teacher and historian, you've given our communities unique and fond memories of your work. As a returning soldier, you turned the adversity you faced into being a leader for social justice. Your work in the civil rights movement helped shape our community and communities across this country. Your counsel and support of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Harold Washington, Barack Obama and countless others, will continue to pay dividends for decades.

Our city, community and generations to come will benefit from your long and varied career committed to social justice, civil rights and history. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." However, it does not bend by its own volition. It bends because good people work hard to make it so. You are one of those good people.

Thank you, Timuel, for the meaningful contributions you continue to make to Cook County, and for the richness you bring to the lives of many of its residents. You are a treasure to Chicago and may you experience many more years of excellent health and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Toni Preckwinkle".

Toni Preckwinkle
President



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

December 7, 2018



Dear Timuel:

As Mayor, and on behalf of the City of Chicago, it is with great pleasure that I offer my best wishes to you on your 100th birthday.

Throughout your life, you have shepherded change in our city and witnessed the growth of this great country. Growing up in the Bronzeville community fostered your love of music, desire to educate, and ongoing advocacy activism. You bravely served our country during World War II, and after returning home and seeing the hardships faced by other returning African American veterans you committed to the ideals of public service, political equality, and social activism. In addition to your work in activism, you helped to shape and inspire countless young people as an educator with the Chicago Public Schools and the City Colleges of Chicago.

You have been a part of some of our country's most historic and important moments from the Southern Lunch Counter Sit-Ins in 1960, the March on Washington in 1963, served as president of the Negro American Labor Council, and participated in marches and protests to fight injustices. You have worked with some of our most influential leaders including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Harold Washington, and Barack Obama. And you continue to educate and advocate through your tireless work with multiple organizations. Your life has symbolized the values of hard work, humility, faith, and integrity, and so will your legacy.

An anchor for your family, you are a committed and loving husband to Zenobia, and invaluable source of love and guidance to Ermetra and Timuel Jr. and stand as a true confidante and friend. Whether you are sharing your storied history through your Oral History Project, advocating for social justice, enjoying jazz music, or debating a topic, you have lived a life of service and uplift centered on family, community, and activism, and you embody all of our City's values.

So, on this day and every day, we honor and celebrate you. As you mark this day, I encourage you to take the time to remember your past, present, and future accomplishments and milestones as living history. And as you reflect and enjoy this momentous occasion with family, friends, and loved ones, I join them in wishing you a memorable birthday. May the rest of your days continue to be filled with happiness, success, and love.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rahm Emanuel".

Mayor

Proclamation

*Presented by
Senator Mattie Hunter &
Senator Jacqueline Collins
congratulating on the occasion of his centenary
Timuel D. Black
Presented this 9th day of December, 2018*



WHEREAS: *Timuel Black was born Dec. 7, 1918 in Birmingham, Alabama to sharecroppers who joined the Great Migration to settle in Chicago the following year; and*

WHEREAS: *Timuel Black was raised in Bronzeville, then a dense and segregated Black neighborhood, and attended all-black DuSable High School, where he was classmates with Nat King Cole and Jet and Ebony founder John Johnson; and*

WHEREAS: *Timuel Black answered the call to serve his country two years after the bombing of Pearl Harbor on his 23rd birthday, serving in the U.S. Army in Europe as part of the 308th Quartermaster Railroad Company, which supplied ammunition, weapons, and food for combat soldiers; and*

WHEREAS: *In two years of valorous service, Timuel Black fought in two of the most decisive battles of the Second World War at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, for which he earned four Battle Stars and the French Croix de Guerre; and*

WHEREAS: *Timuel Black returned home from the war carrying memories of the liberation of concentration camps and his own unfair treatment at the hands of fellow countrymen with the resolve to fight for equality at home; and*

WHEREAS: *Following the war, he earned degrees from Roosevelt University and the University of Chicago before working as a teacher in Gary, Indiana; and*

WHEREAS: *He became part of the group of Chicagoans involved in bringing the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Chicago, and was entrusted with organizing the Chicago contingent to the historic 1963 March on Washington that culminated in the "I Have A Dream" speech; and*

WHEREAS: *Timuel Black has continued dedicating his life to ending segregation, promoting equal rights, and above all educating successive generations throughout his career; therefore be it*

PROCLAIMED: *BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we thank Timuel D. Black for his century of service to Chicago, and extend our best wishes to him on his one hundredth birthday; and be it further*

PROCLAIMED: *That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to Timuel D. Black as a symbol of our esteem and respect.*



Mattie Hunter *Jacqueline Collins*
Senator Mattie Hunter Senator Jacqueline Collins
3rd Senate District 16th Senate District

1818 2018



GUILLAUME LACROIX
Consul General of France in Chicago

Guillaume Lacroix became Consul General of France in Chicago on August 29th, 2017.

He holds diplomas from Institut d'études politiques de Paris and Université Panthéon-Assas. He speaks Swahili, a language he studied at Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales in Paris and in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

He started his diplomatic career in 1997. He was assigned to the Department of African and Indian Ocean Affairs in Paris, then to the French Embassy in Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and to the French Embassy in Washington.

He was also posted in two other diplomatic institutions: at the U.S. State Department as part of the Transatlantic Diplomatic Fellow program and at the European External Action Service in Brussels.

From 2013 until 2017, he served in the cabinets of French Foreign Affairs Ministers Laurent Fabius and Jean-Marc Ayrault as Counsellor for African Affairs.

Guillaume Lacroix was born in 1971 in Auxerre (Burgundy). He is married and has two children.



THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

The Legion of Honor is the highest national decoration. For two centuries, it has been rewarding the outstanding merits of citizens and designating them as models of French civic service.

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

Its three founding principles are the hallmark of the vitality of the Legion of Honor:

1. Rewarding individual merit

The Order of the Legion of Honor rewards people who have carried out actions of great value, forged by their own merits. This principle is a strong symbol of the spirit arising from the French Revolution, and it replaces birthrights by the recognition of personal merit. The Order of the Legion of Honor thus creates a vast community of men and women treated on the same equal footing, excluding any social or professional consideration.

2. Universal recognition

In the democratic melting pot of the French republic, the Legion of Honor reflects the kaleidoscope of merits of French society in all its various forms. Whether of course in the military, whether in sports or industry, whether a Nobel Prize winner or a singer or a volunteer, every citizen who has demonstrated eminent merits may be awarded the Legion of Honor, regardless of the domain of expression of the merit.

This principle of equality is sometimes the cause of some misunderstanding on the part of the public. Yet it is what constitutes the greatness of the Order. It revolutionized the official decoration systems of many other countries, which drew inspiration from the organizational model of the Legion of Honor, its award criteria, its philosophy and its insignia.

3. Contribution to the public good

Holders of the Legion of Honor work for the benefit of society and not in their own exclusive interest. In all their diverse activities, they contribute to the development, the renown and the defense of France.



The Civic Knowledge Project (CKP), a program of the University of Chicago Office of Civic Engagement, uses the humanities to develop and strengthen UChicago's community connections to neighboring mid-South Side communities, helping to foster civic friendship and overcome social, economic, and racial divisions. Believing that the free and reciprocal flow of humanities-based knowledge is empowering for all, the project seeks to "Let knowledge grow from more to more; and so be human life enriched." The Civic Knowledge Project's community-oriented programs highlight the vital role of the humanities in public life, as a key part of the public good demonstrating the virtues of civic friendship and communities of inquiry.

And for many years, our most valued partner in this work has been **Professor Timuel D. Black**, educator, oral historian, civil rights activist, and the Senior Statesman of Chicago's South Side.

TIMUEL D. BLACK AND 100 YEARS OF A WONDERFUL LIFE

Over a half century ago Tim Black performed an act of courage and solidarity on my behalf for which words can only begin to express the depth of my gratitude and respect.

On July 4th, 1963 at the NAACP march and meeting in Grant Park, I led a demonstration that included booing Mayor Richard J. Daley off the stage. Years later did I learn that Tim had been summoned by the Mayor to account for the actions of a small group of young radicals. Tim advised the Mayor to leave us alone, that we represented a new militant spirit in the Chicago Black community and that we had his support. Tim's stance enabled me, and to continue my participation in the Civil Rights and Black Liberation movements to finish my education with only the routine levels of harassment and intimidation by the Daley Machine and various law enforcement agencies.

I did not know Tim Black in July, 1963. I met him later during the demonstrations against school segregation at 73rd and Lowe. He never mentioned his intervention with the Mayor nor asked any favors in return. Two decades later when I learned of Tim's actions in a casual conversation with Chicago friends, I asked why hadn't Tim told me what he had done. They all responded: that's Tim. It's not about him, it's about the struggle for freedom for Black folk. If Tim thought you were on the side of the righteous, he had your back, no questions asked.

Of my many guides in those days: Rose Simpson, Sterling Stuckey, Larry Landry, Ish Flory, Christine Johnson, Hal Baron, and St. Clair Drake all played a big part. Timuel D. Black has, and always will, occupy a very special place in my life and memories.

Thanks again Tim. I owe you big time. Congratulations on a century of life of principle, integrity and courage.

The struggle continues.

John H. Bracey

Amherst, Massachusetts
November 2018



KEEPIN' IT WITH TIM BLACK!

TIMUEL D. BLACK has turned 100 and what a century it has been! A time of rapid change, evolution, transformation: from Isolationism to Globalism, from the Great Depression to the Great Recession, from Industrialism to High Tech, Modernity to Post Modernity. It was a time of music - ragtime to blues to jazz to R&B to rap and hip hop. It was a time of war: The Great War, The Good War, The Cold War, The Vietnam War; the War on Poverty, the War on Drugs. And the Fight for Rights: Civil-Women's-Gay. A time of The Great Migration, Segregation, Integration. From Colored to Negro to Black to African American – Tim has always been *Black!*

As you know well, for so many who trod the sacred ground of his South Side, Tim Black is in many ways our own special Bridge of Memory, connecting us to the truth, worth and significance of Black Chicago: the music, the struggles, the joy. For his is a prodigious recollection bearing witness that “trouble don’t last always”, that being poor in the pocket does not connote an impoverished spirit; that hope and humor help make the human spirit to soar!

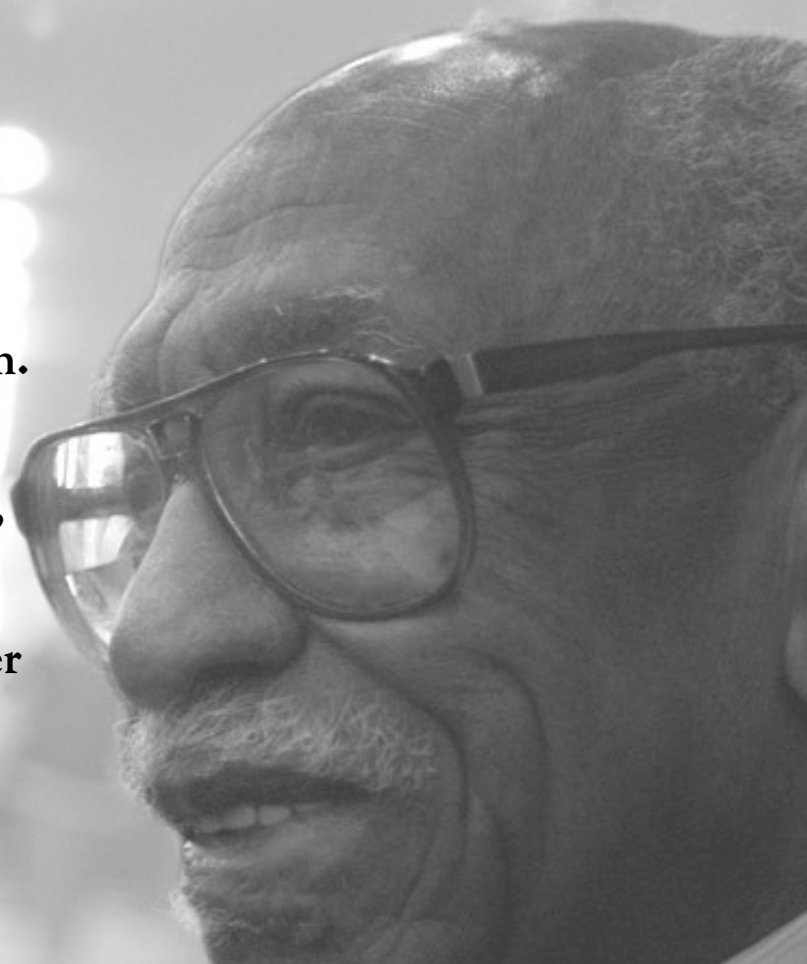
Far more than a pillar in his beloved community, Tim has been sage, scribe, defender, thinker, instructor; a way shower and a prophet. Today, we want to pay homage to this Chicago treasure with music and the spoken word, taking note of the times of his life and the difference he has made in the life of his community and beyond.

Today, we celebrate all things Tim, by sharing some things that Tim loves best: great jazz music, and wonderful fellowship, accompanied by good wine and scrumptious soul food. It is our pleasure to present the premier performance of “**Sounds Portraits of a Century - the Living Legacy of Timuel D. Black**” by Maestro Robert ‘Babe’ Irving, III, a brilliant, multi-talented musician whose imprimatur is firmly stamped on contemporary American jazz. This original musical creation was commissioned through the generosity of the Oppenheimer Family Foundation, to mark Tim’s life of contribution in our cultural landscape.

Welcome! Thank you for being here and helping to make Tim’s Centenary Celebration happen; we appreciate your support.

With all good wishes,
The Tim Black One Hundred Committee

On behalf of family members, we send love, best wishes and continued good health. You have been a beacon of inspiration, providing words of wisdom. We are better because YOU shared with US.



Kara Burns
Alexandria Howard
Dr. Rashad Belin & Family
Sharon Dixon & Family
Karla Belin-Green
Keenan Green & Family
Attorney Herbert Hill
Walter Kindred, Naima Kindred
Dr. Rosalind Morgan & Family
Dorothy Rhea Sanders & Family,
Margaret and Kimberly Shumpert
Ursula Sanders Harris



Preserving our history.
Sharing our legacy.
Remembering our past.
Ensuring it for the future.
As she did.

The Vivian G. Harsh Society
celebrates the life and legacy
of Timuel D. Black on his
100th Birthday.

Vivian G. Harsh Society





It's an honor and a pleasure to stand shoulder to shoulder with you Tim, in the struggle for civil rights and liberty.

Steve Abrams, Emily Berman, Shahid Buttar, Chip Gibbons, Don Goldhamer, Arun Gupta, Woody Kaplan, Michael McCall-Delgado, Sascha Meinrath, Victor Navasky, Mike Rufo, Fadi Saba, Suraj Sazawal, Sue Udry



**DEFENDING
RIGHTS & DISSENT**



CENTENARIAN GRIOT OF BRONZEVILLE

(A TRIBUTE TO TIMUEL D. BLACK)

Every village has a Griot
Whose impeccable voice becomes
The narrator of a people's
Humanity, ethos and history
That spans several generations
Bronzeville was truly blessed
When you became the oral archivist
Of the stories that made it sacred
From the days it was called the Black Belt
To the first Black migration
When many of our people left the south
From the cane fields of Georgia
And the Delta region of Mississippi
From the cotton plantations of South Carolina
And your birthplace of Alabama
Seeking consolation from racism
To labor in the stock yards, steel mills and factories
In Carl Sandburg's "City with the big shoulders"

And after you served in the army
During the Second World War
You returned to the streets of Bronzeville
And continued to record its stories
From the race riot of 1919
To the jubilation of the Bud Biliken Parade
From the ordinary people who rode
The jitneys along South Park Boulevard
Which was adorned by fashionable Brownstones
Occupied by Bronzeville's growing
Black middle class
To the emergence of Chicago's Black Renaissance
When artists of many genres
Exhibited their created works

At the South Side Arts Center
And the DuSable Museum of
African American History
When the blues and jazz artists
Graced the stage of the Regal Theater
With crescendo that rivaled Harlem's fabled legacy
As the epicenter of Black culture and art

But you were not just a teller of stories
You also helped to make them
And championed many causes
As an activist in Chicago's Freedom Movement
And mobilized Chicagoans of all hues
To participate in the March on Washington
And became a striving force
In our fledging Black Labor Movement
And used your political savvy
To help elect Harold Washington
Become Chicago's first Black mayor
And played a formidable role
In the election of President Barack Hussain Obama

Your voice echoed the diligence of our Ancestors
And leaves an indelible legacy
On every aspect of Bronzeville's
Protracted struggle for social justice
And we praise you with calabashes of love
For being our Centenarian Griot
Who told our stories with integrity and compassion

Peace Harmony and Love
Useni Eugene Perkins
November 5, 2018



A BEACON OF
KNOWLEDGE
FOR OUR FAMILY
OUR CITY
AND OUR PEOPLE

WISHING YOU
THE HAPPIEST OF
BIRTHDAYS, TIM.

WITH LOVE FROM
SYLVIA EWING
AND FAMILY

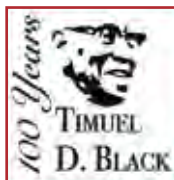


*Our history is made richer through the life and work of
Dr. Timuel Black
We salute you!*

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) is a member-based consortium of archival repositories throughout metropolitan Chicago.

We connect all who seek to document, share, understand and preserve Black experiences.

WWW.BMRC.UCHICAGO.EDU



A GALA CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF LIFE, SERVICE AND LEGACY

FANFARE

Tim Branch



LIBATION CEREMONY

Oyekunle Oyegbemi



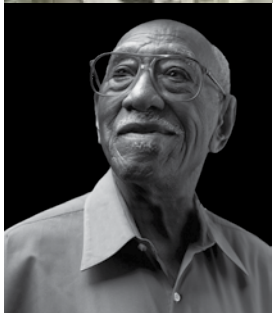
EMCEES

Pam Morris Walton and Art Norman

WELCOME REMARKS

on behalf of Vivian G. Harsh Society

RaMona Westbrook



on behalf of the Timuel D. Black Jr. family

Dr. Ora Jones



FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL CEREMONY

French National Anthem

US National Anthem

Mayor Rahm Emmanuel

Stephen Curda,

Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

French Consul General, Guillaume Lacroix

REMARKS

German Consul General Herbert Quelle

South African Consul General, Phumzile Mazibuko

SOUND PICTURES OF A CENTURY:

The Living Legacy of Timuel D. Black

Composed and arranged by Robert Irving III

Lauren Deutsch

Susan and Ted Oppenheimer

Performed by Sonic Portraits Orchestra

Conducted by Robert Irving III

DINNER: GRACE

Rev. Monica Faith Stewart

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Dick Durbin

INVITED SPEAKERS

Amb. Carol Moseley Braun

Roberta Enschedé

Dr. William Daniels,

Attorney James Montgomery

Justice P. Scott Neville

MUSICAL INTERLUDE:

The Impossible Dream

Meagan McNeal w/Justin Dillard on piano

PRESENTATION OF THE BIRTHDAY CAKE

Timuel D. Black, Jr. and Zenobia Johnson Black

Dee Alexander, Maggie Brown, and Robert “Baabe” Irving

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

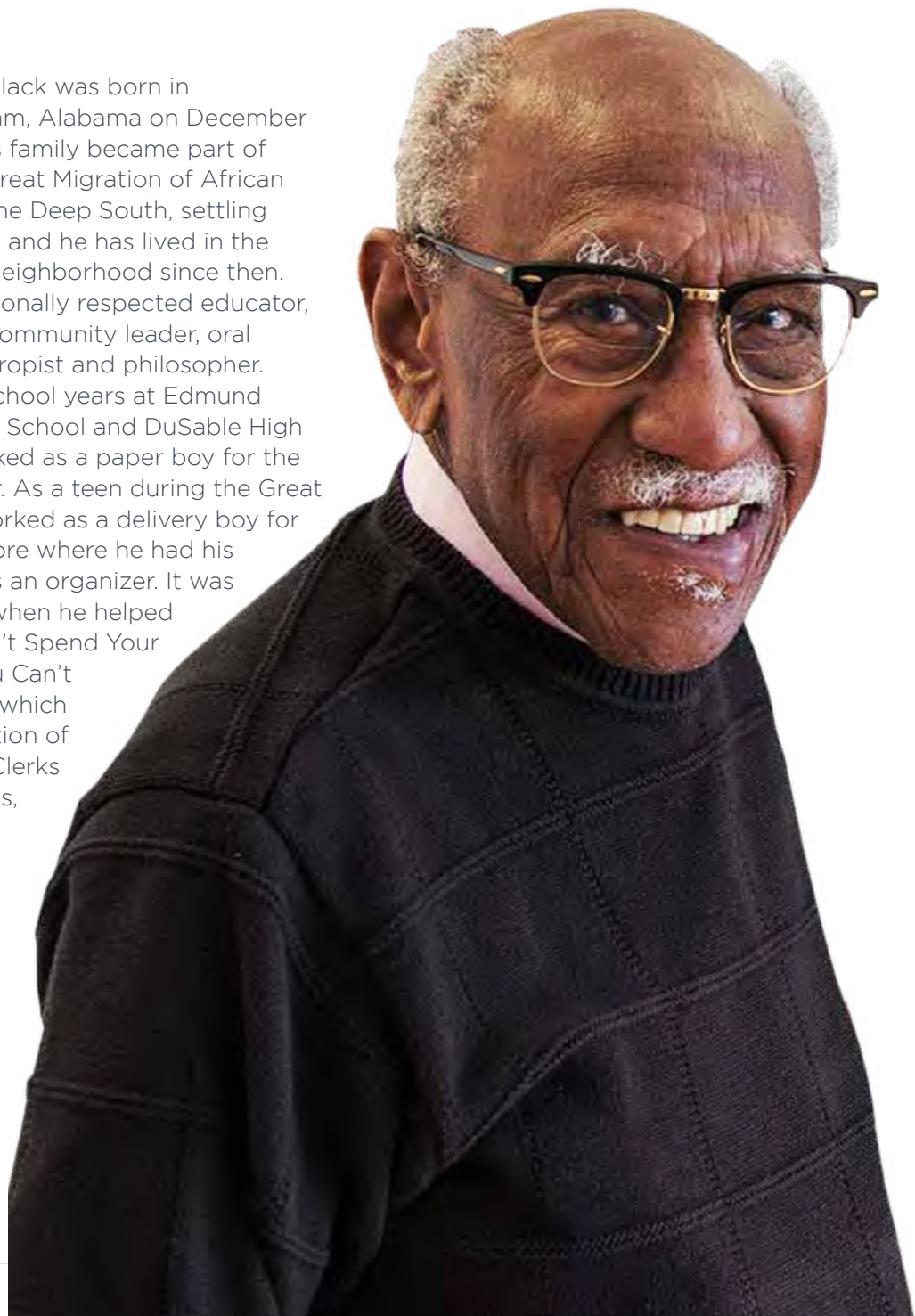
PROGRAM ENDS

Lift Every Voice and Sing by James Weldon Johnson



TIMUEL DIXON BLACK

Timuel D. Black was born in Birmingham, Alabama on December 7, 1918. His family became part of the first Great Migration of African Americans from the Deep South, settling in Chicago in 1919, and he has lived in the same south side neighborhood since then. Tim Black is a nationally respected educator, political activist, community leader, oral historian, philanthropist and philosopher. During his early school years at Edmund Burke Elementary School and DuSable High School Black worked as a paper boy for the Chicago Defender. As a teen during the Great Depression, he worked as a delivery boy for a local grocery store where he had his first experience as an organizer. It was the early thirties when he helped organize the “Don’t Spend Your Money Where You Can’t Work” campaign, which led to the formation of the Negro Retail Clerks Union. In the 1940s, he was an active



organizer of the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE) which worked to desegregate Chicago department stores and public accommodations.

Black served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was awarded four battle stars and a Croix de Guerre, the highest military honor accorded by France to non-citizens. After the war, he received a Bachelor's Degree from Roosevelt University, and later pursued a Master's Degree from the University of Chicago.

In 1955, after seeing Dr. Martin Luther King on television, Black was motivated to abandon his doctoral studies at the University of Chicago to become an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement. Immersing himself in civil rights work, Tim went on to serve as the Chicago Chair of the historic 1963 March on Washington.

A pioneer in the independent black political movement, Black was one of the first African Americans in Chicago to challenge the "Regular Democratic Organization" and coined the phrase "Plantation Politics." He has run for public office several times and was a leader in the massive voter registration campaign which resulted in the election of Mayor Harold Washington.

Two volumes of Black's three-volume work, *Bridges of Memory: Chicago's First Wave of Great Migration*, have been published, and the third volume is in the works. These books chronicle the history of black Chicago from the 1920s to the present.

In 2000, Black served as the lead plaintiff in *Black v. McGuffage*, a lawsuit which charged the Illinois voting system with systemic discrimination against minorities. For his work he was honored by the American Civil Liberties Union as Civil Libertarian of the Year.

In 2008, Timuel Black received an honorary doctoral degree from his alma mater, Roosevelt University. In 2010, and again in 2015, Black traveled to the Netherlands and The Hague to be honored and lecture at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day Dinner of the United States Embassy.

In January of 2012, the Timuel D. Black Archive was officially inaugurated and opened to researchers. The massive archive of Black's documents, letters and memorabilia is housed in the Vivian Harsh Collection at the Carter G. Woodson Regional Library in Chicago.

In June of 2012, half a century after he withdrew from the University of Chicago in order to join Dr. King, Timuel Black was awarded the 2012 Benton Medal for Distinguished Public Service from the University of Chicago. He was the first person of color ever to receive this award.

In 2013, the City of Chicago honored Black with the inaugural Chicago Champion of Freedom medal, in recognition of his work in the civil rights movement both locally and nationally.

Timuel Black's memoir, *Sacred Ground*, focusing heavily on his lifelong home,



SOUND PICTURES OF A CENTURY
THE LIVING LEGACY OF TIMUEL D. BLACK
ROBERT IRVING III & SONIC PORTRAITS ORCHESTRA



Composer Robert Irving III, commissioned to create this commemorative work, began by interviewing the centenarian Timuel D Black himself while additionally researching online content including speeches, panel discussions, documentaries and other interviews. Irving culled quotes, phrases and stories that convey and highlight the empirical arc of Black's 100-years. Irving crafted the actual words and stories of Timuel into "song cycles" which transverse classical, jazz, blues and gospel: expressly the music Black has loved from an early age as his mother took him to weekly symphony performances and his father to jazz concerts including a Louis Armstrong concert. Through Irving's interpretations, Black, becomes a virtual and literal co-song writer of five songs from this suite.

SONG CYCLE MOVEMENTS

1. "Day One" alludes to 12 7, 1918. The composer used the individual birth numbers as intervals in an E melodic minor scale that is played throughout on classical guitar by Marco Villereal. The piece develops into a mini opera that reenacts Tim's mother (played by Dee Alexander) in labor with him on that day with his father (depicted by Michael Irving) urging her to breath and "push" a little harder, while the midwife/aunt (by Maggie Brown) reassures Tim's mom and later expresses her dreamy optimism (accurately) projecting baby Timuel's future greatness as Timeul senior implores her to "keep her feet on the ground."

2. Centenarian (Timuel D Black) The opening melody is literally based on the name number numerology of Tim's name. This melody is played by the entire horn section. The words are forward looking to the early search for Timuel's generation to find and define its self identity: "We were know Negros as, then that other name of shame, then Jessie came and now African American is what we claim." Black Power had it's hour went out like it came, like a flame in a shower, but ask him his name and he won't think twice, cause Timuel D has been Black, all his life." The composer takes license to use the name Black as a double entendre/parody in keeping with the sense of humor that Black himself is known for. As such, this song cycle is a little bit of a celebratory roast for Timuel.

3. Pearl Harbor Blues/Please Promise (Postlude) The piece opens with music which captures the approach of Japanese planes to bomb the actual Naval base in Hawaii and moves into Timuel's well known 23rd birthday story recalling his humorous euphemism about a presumed woman named 'Pearl Harbor' that has been crafted into a classic blues story by the composer: "Well I knew a Pearl Bailey, but not this Harbor lady, and if she had not been drinking so much she wouldn't be so bombed. Ironically, Ms, Bailey was born e same year as Timuel. The piece then transitions to the seriousness of Timuel's draft and eventual deployment into WWII. The postlude is his mother's solemn plea for him to return home alive after the war ends.



4. The War Within speaks of Timuel's sudden thrust into a war theater as part of Quartermaster 308 Supply Unit during the battle of Normandy that eventually brings victory for the US and it's allies to end Nazi tyranny. The opening evokes the militaristic discipline which he must now subject himself to, juxtaposed with the uncertainty of what dangers will ensue especially after his comrades in Unit 306 perish. The lyric then examines Tim's moral dilemma sung by Maggie Brown: "To War he had to go, to fight for our freedom, although he wasn't free to live where he pleased." The chorus continues, He fought his war within, his own personal war... And that war would never end... cause he concedes that Freedom ain't free.

5. The Liberation of Buchenwald (Prelude)/If No One's To Blame Is connected to the previous piece as the aftermath of the freeing of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Tim's own words, "... and what I saw there made me resolve to make this a better world." When the Buchenwald residents blamed the Nazi regime, Tim asked the rhetorical question that comprises the title of the composition "If no one's to blame then how did this happen and if people don't change, then this could happen again." This marks both Timuel's coming of age and his call to activism. He left as a boy and return as a man with purpose and focus. This piece features Dee Alexander with solo piano joined by the woodwinds and the string quartet.

6. Civil Rights Collage is a short collage piece with patches of musical memory from Emmet Till's slaying in Money, Missouri in August 1955 marked with "Strange Fruit" (sung by Dee Alexander), MLK's answering the call to leadership in November 1959 marked by "Come Sunday" (sung by Maggie Brown) and the March On Washington in August 29, 1963, (three-months before JFK assassination); marked by "We Shall Overcome" the theme of the movement (sung by Michael Durwin Irving) all colliding inside a webbed collage with dark and dissonant solo classical guitar for a stark; in-your-face perspective of Tim's

emotional return from WWII into the Jim Crow era of the US as his true 'battle' for civil rights ensues.

7. It's Not So Far Away segues out of the previous collage. The composer created this song cycle as, more of, a forward looking contemporary gospel piece (incorporating Edwin Hawkins' early use of jazz elements in gospel music -1972) that speaks to the hope of Martin Luther King's Universal Dream which Timuel often echoes, reminding us of our collective responsibility to actively keep the dream alive with our actions and faith in what we do (that eventual we will bring about a lasting change).

8. Standardized Test brings us into the post civil era of Timuel's work as an educator. It is based on Timuel's words as spoken at an education conference that featured a panel of experts. He asked the question, "Who made the test and why?" as he revealed its inherent cultural bias. The complexity of the 7/4 time signature of the composition along with the polyrhythmic, angular motives reflect the irony with parody displayed in the lyrical extension of Tim's contention that "They don't teach the standard for the standardized test." The piece is cast as an avant garde, abstract jazz excursion into uncharted improvisational waters with Maggie Brown and Michael Durwin Irving spontaneously re-interpreting written lyrical lines with new melodic and rhythm ideas.

9. Retired (But Not Tired) is based on the words of Timuel conveyed by him directly and through a mutual friend who had recently spoken to him. This tune could be a Baby-Boomer anthem: "Retired but not tired sister we got to keep on moving— Brotha we got to move on up. After one hundred years, keeping my head to the sky, still dreaming dreams, I can testify, I check the rear view mirror, but don't live in the past, (and nobody knows the trouble I've seen)

The best is yet to come, as long as life shall last, under the sun."

Robert Irving III, Pianist and Composer

At age 26, Robert Irving III began his prolific nine-year collaboration with Miles Davis. From 1983-1984, Irving produced two award winning Columbia Record albums for Davis, and studied with Gil Evans. He has also worked as a composer/arranger on three Ramsey Lewis albums, created three film scores and produced five Grammy Award nominated projects, as well as working with major artists and serving as Musical Director for Donald Byrd and Sister Sledge. Through his early childhood and young adult mentorship experiences, Irving became a strong proponent for youth of today. In 2006, he became a mentor for the JIC Jazz Links Education Program. Irving co-founded the Sonic Portraits Entertainment label in 2007 (now Sonic Portraits Jazz) releasing “New Momentum” as his first acoustic project as a leader, co-produced by Terri Lyne Carrington. In 2009 the Jazz Institute/Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs commissioned Irving to create “Sketches of Brazil” with his 33-member Sonic Portraits Orchestra that premiered August 13, 2009 at Millennium Park. “Our Space In Time” (2014) is his third album released under the name “Robert Irving III Generations.” Irving is currently the Musical Director of the Miles Electric Band featuring Miles Davis alums.

SOUND PICTURES OF A CENTURY: The Living Legacy of Timuel D. Black

Composed and arranged by Robert Irving III

Sonic Portraits Orchestra
Conducted by Robert Irving III

Rhythm Section

Charles “Rick” Heath IV- Orchestral Percussion (timpani, marimba, gong, hand percussion)
William Henry-Drum set/Hand drums

Miguel de la Cerna- Piano
Marlene Rosenberg- Acoustic bass
Marco Villereal- Classical guitar/electric guitar

Woodwinds

Nathlie Joachim- Flute/Piccolo
Jenna Przybysz- Clarinet/Flute/Alto Saxophone
Ari Brown-Tenor/Soprano Saxophones
Mwata Boden- Baritone Saxophone/Clarinet

Brass

Leon Q Allen- Trumpet 1
Corey Wilkes- Trumpet 2
Norman Palm Jr.- Trombone 1
Gill Bolster- Trombone 2
Vincent Chancey- Horn in F

String Quartet

Samuel Williams- Violin 1-
Kalman Strauss- Violin 2
Michelle Mason- Viola
Larry Gray- Cello

Vocals

Maggie Brown- Soprano
Dee Alexander- Alto
Michael Irving -Tenor

DEE ALEXANDER - Alto

Born on Chicago's west side, Dee Alexander is one of Chicago's most gifted and respected female vocalist/songwriters. Her talents span every music genre, from Gospel to R&B, from Blues to Neo-Soul. Yet her true heart and soul are experienced in their purest form through her performance of Jazz music.; Ms. Alexander names Dinah Washington, Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald among her major influences, as well as Chicago saxophonist Henry Huff, who encouraged her to take risks and cross boundaries thus setting her on the path to becoming one of the most accomplished voice improvisers in the world today. Her 2007 "Sirens of Song" tribute to Nina Simone and Dinah Washington at Chicago's Pritzker Pavilion (commissioned by the Jazz Institute of Chicago), marked the beginning of world recognition for her artistry, resulting in frequent tours in France, Finland, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, and Poland. Ms. Alexander has collaborated with Ramsey Lewis, Orbert Davis, Nicole Mitchell, Chicago Jazz Orchestra, and the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM) and leads her own Dee Alexander Quartet and the Evolution Ensemble. She received the Chicagoan of the Year in 2008 and was the recipient of the 3Arts Award for Music in 2012. Her performance at the 2013 Newport Jazz Festival was selected by the NY Times as one of the best concerts with staying power.

MAGGIE BROWN- Soprano

Singer, songwriter, actress, producer, and director Maggie Brown is said to be "one of the most fiercely committed artists in Chicago" by Chicago Tribune's Howard Reich. Maggie grew up tuning into her father's methods on stage, at the typewriter and in the director's chair. Formative years in theater then shifted to performing as vocalist, band leader, recording artist, and songwriter. Maggie has recorded with Abbey Lincoln, Jonathan Butler, Ramsey Lewis, Stevie Wonder, and her father. In her hometown of Chicago, Maggie is called on to bring authenticity and integrity to whatever the job calls for and has worked with a diverse list of band leaders including: Tom Washington (South Side Big Band), Joan Collaso (11 Jazzy Divas), Douglas Ewart (AACM Inventions Ensemble), and Orbert

Davis (Chicago Jazz Philharmonic). With an upbringing rooted in jazz, she is comfortable singing blues, gospel, pop, and even rapping—with impressive conviction and flow.

Maggie has answered the call to mentor young musicians, rehearsing and hiring teen proteges to provide backup in performances for social justice and non-profit organizations. Presently, she serves on the Board of Directors for Blue Gargoyle Youth Services Organization, co-directs a youth repertory theatre company, and is an artist in residence at the Rebuild Foundation.

MICHAEL DURWIN IRVING - Tenor

Michael Durwin Irving born and raised in Chicago (the third of six-siblings of composer Robert Irving III) moved to North Carolina with his family at an early age and for the past 20-years has resided in Virginia Beach where he works as a vocalist, trumpeter, percussionist, recording studio owner/record label founder. His MIC Productions is a boutique label for which he also wears the hats of composer, arranger, producer, photographer, video producer and artist manager. Irving started singing with a church radio choir in NC at the age of 12 and soon moved up to the choir director and songwriter. A prolific and versatile vocal stylist, Irving studied voice with the legendary chorale director, Dwaine Best in NC, garnering first-place slots in numerous statewide vocal competitions. He began playing trumpet at the age of 16 joining his first band at 17, touring the South East Coast and subsequently worked as lead vocalist/trumpeter with bands such as Mass Production, Style, Mighty Majors, TFC, The Showmen and currently with POWER PLAY of which he has toured since 1995 sharing the stage with groups like Earth Wind & Fire, The Jazz Crusaders, Jimmy Buffett, Ready for the World, James Brown, The Four Tops and The Temptations. He appears as a featured vocalist on the Soundtrack for the Motion Picture Street Smart, the first film of Morgan Freeman and has performed for two US Presidents and for a number of US Congressional representatives and Senators.

center for the study of race, politics, and culture

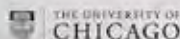
CSRPC

at the university of chicago

Happy 100th, Professor Black!

*Wishing you a day filled with happiness and a year filled with the joy of **family**, **friends**, and **memories** of a vibrant life lived with more incredible experiences to come.*

Never stop making history, Tim!



South Side Home Movie Project

wishes a happy and healthy
100th Birthday to
Dr. Timuel Black

who demonstrates every day
the richness of our community,
the power of our stories,
and the necessity to know our history.

south side home movie project

Jacqueline Stewart, Director
773-795-3329 | sshmp.uchicago.edu

Image from the NAACP March in Memorial for Medgar Evers, 1963, from the Nicholas Osborn Collection.



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ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HONORABLE CYNTHIA Y. COBBS
CHAIR

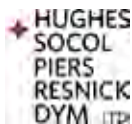
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on his Centenary Celebration

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Justice Warrior.
Humanity's Griot.
Encourager & Guide.**

Congratulations on 100 years Tim.

Rev. Dr. Calvin S. Morris

BROOK

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*Congratulations Timuel D. Black, Jr.
100 years young!*



“I get up every morning and say ‘What am I going to do today to make the world a better place?’”

—Timuel D. Black Jr.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY and **CONGRATULATIONS** on a century of good works! Thank you for a lifetime of activism and for fighting the good fight. We share your love of jazz and justice, red wine and coffee.

We love and honor you and Zenobia.

Susan and Ted Oppenheimer

Happy Birthday, Timuel Black!

**This is an incredible milestone,
but not as incredible as you are.**

**We are profoundly grateful for your 100
Years of dedication to history, education,
and the Chicago community.**

Congratulations and Best Wishes!

David Marienthal and the Mister Kelly's Team



**A new documentary film
www.misterkellyschicago.com**

Timuel D. Black

*Congratulations on a lifetime
of community service.*

Thank you for Making A Difference.



Von Freeman and Timuel Black

The Board and Staff of the Jazz Institute of Chicago congratulate our Vice President Timuel D. Black on his 100th Birthday.

Thank you for your lifetime of service to Jazz and Justice and for shining your light on all of us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIM!



Congratulations to
Timuel Black
on his 100th Birthday.



Sharon Glenn
Managing Broker

Tel: (773) 330-6933
saglenn@sbcglobal.net



TRIBUTE TO TIMUEL BLACK

As an African American native Chicagoan I am honored and humbled to know Timuel Black and to have been blessed by his intensive documentation of the historic positive contributions of African Americans in Chicago.

Tim, we celebrate your 100th birthday as an invaluable gift to our city.

Ms. Aurie A. Pennick, Esq

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO TIMUEL BLACK!**



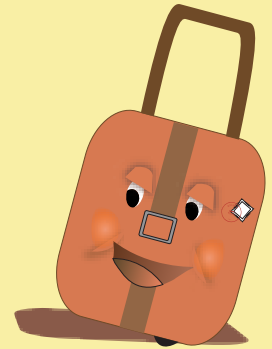
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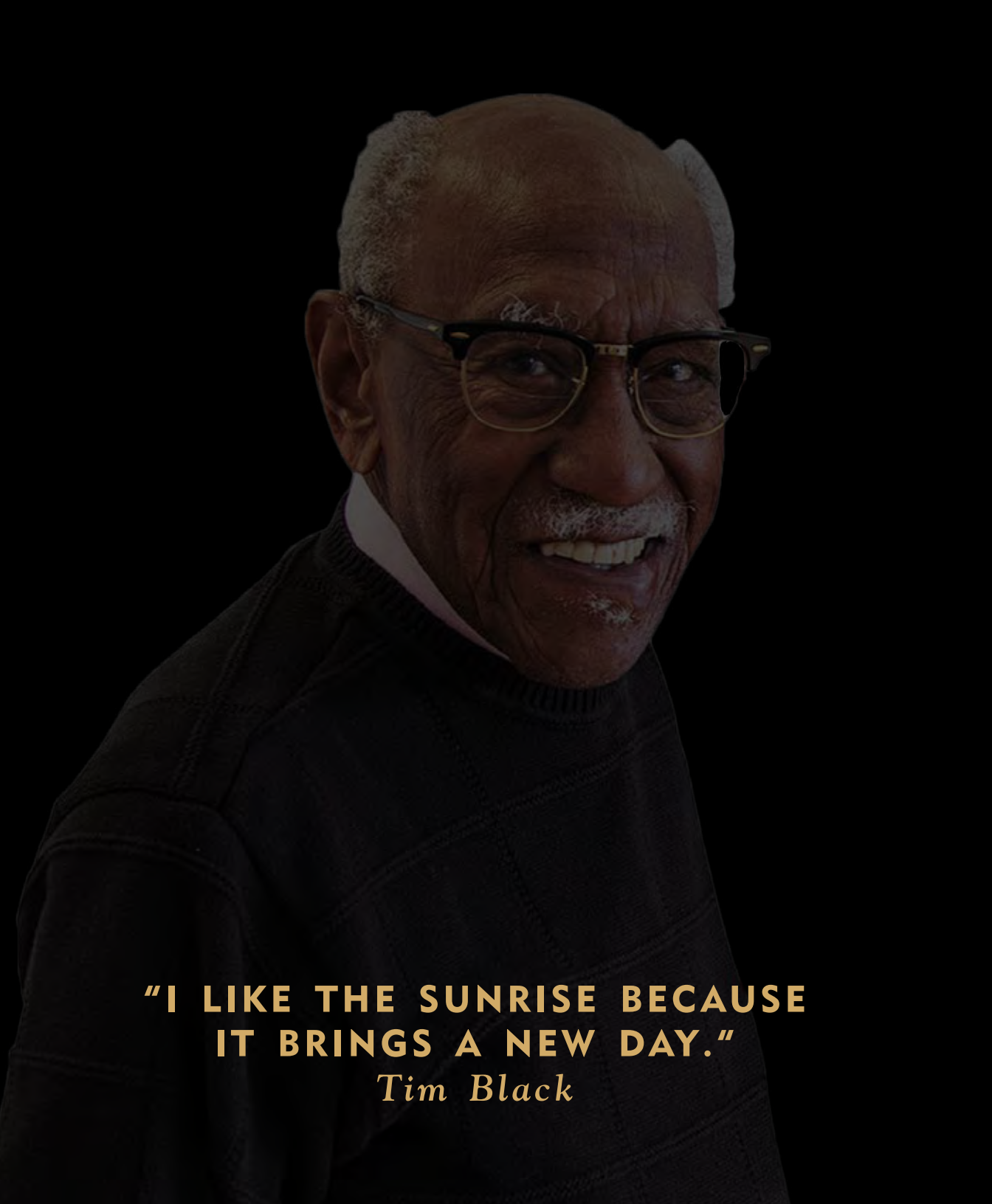


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IT BRINGS A NEW DAY."**

Tim Black