

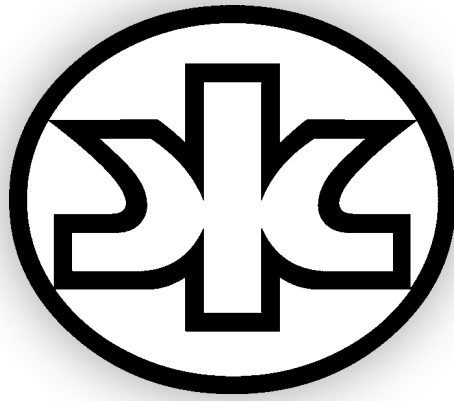
ourMississippi

MAGAZINE

PRESENTS
1ST ANNUAL

ourMississippi
HONORS

Saturday, March 15, 2014
BancorpSouth Conference Center
Tupelo, Mississippi



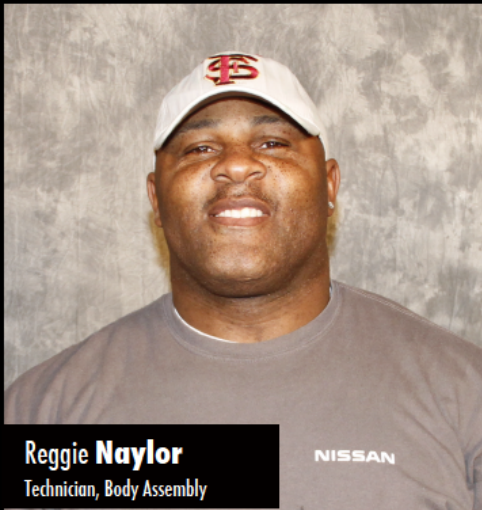
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Wesley Wells Event Chairman

I want to welcome all of you to our first annual honors program. I am so thrilled that we're able to bring a program of this significance to my hometown. I am truly honored to be sitting in the company of so many great corporations and individuals...Really honored.

There are so many people I need to thank that have made this event possible. I won't call them out individually, but you know who you are. My heartfelt admiration and thanks goes

out to all of you.

I'm so excited to have Mr. Stedman Graham and Mrs. Myrlie Evers Williams with us tonight. We struck it big having these Great Americans with us. Also happy and grateful to Ms. Cassi Davis for taking time out of her business schedule to help us celebrate this evening.

Congratulations to the corporations that are being honored tonight. All of you are so deserving of this award. Thank you so much for your diversity and inclusion practices. It only makes for a better Mississippi.

Thanks to everyone that bought tickets. I hope you enjoy yourselves tonight. If I can be of help to any of you, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks and God Bless
Wesley Wells





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Ward Seven

March 15, 2014

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City Council, and the entire City of Tupelo, I am proud to welcome you to the ourMississippi Honors event. I am especially proud to welcome our two special guests for the evening - Mrs. Myrlie Evers-Williams and Mr. Stedman Graham. It is an honor to have each of you here tonight to celebrate diversity in business with us.

Thank you to Toyota for sponsoring this event. They are a tremendous community partner and certainly a leader in promoting diversity and inclusion in our state. I would also like to recognize the executives from the many other companies we are celebrating here tonight including Nissan, Caesar's Entertainment, Entergy Corporation, AT&T, Caterpillar, Kimberly Clark, McDonald's and others.

Your presence here tonight is a sign of the great progress Mississippi has made in terms of both diversity and economic development. It is truly an honor to be a part of this event.

If you are visiting, I hope you enjoy your time here in Tupelo and will take the opportunity to get to know us a little better and experience what we call the "Tupelo that makes this such a special place to live.

Again, I extend my sincere thanks for your presence this evening.

Sincerely,

Jason L. Shelton
Mayor



Welcome to Tupelo, birthplace of the King of Rock N' Roll! We are excited to have you in Tupelo for the inaugural

Our Mississippi Awards and hope you will find time to enjoy the sweet sounds of all that this four-time "All America City" has to offer.

While in Tupelo, you are in the center of positivity. Walk in the footsteps of the King at the Elvis Presley Birthplace where you can tour the shotgun shack in which he was born and sing along to the gospel melodies that influenced young Elvis in the original Assembly of God church he attended. If the tune of classic cars is more your taste, stop by the Tupelo Automobile Museum and visit the largest private automotive collection east of the Mississippi River. Over 100 antique, classic, and unique automobiles are

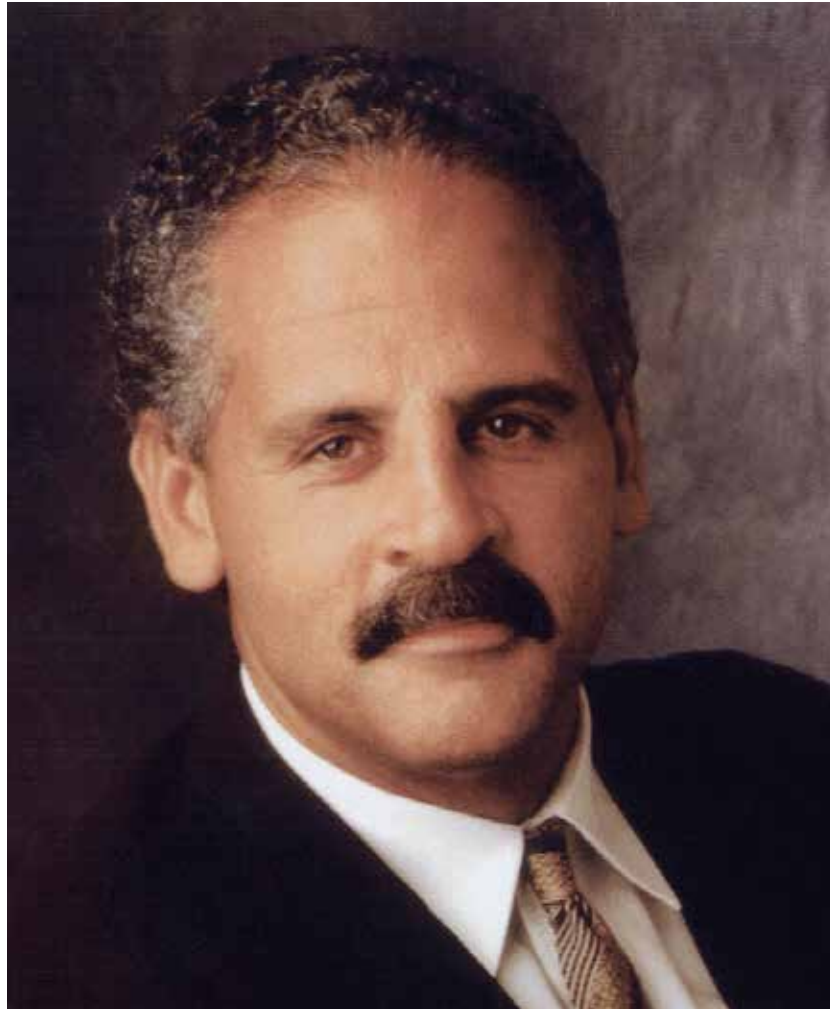
displayed at the museum. The sounds of exotic animals reverberate from the Tupelo Buffalo Park & Zoo. Take the Monster Bison Bus tour and hand-feed a giraffe at this ultimate family adventure. Take time to explore our regions rich cultural history on our Heritage Trail that features significant people, places and events in our Native American, Civil War and Civil Rights and African American history.

Tupelo's harmony is a song for the entire family. From unique shopping and scrumptious restaurants to outdoor adventures and an array of attractions, we hope that Tupelo's melody will stick with you and that you will visit us again soon.



Sincerely
Neal McCoy
Executive Director
Tupelo Convention & Visitors Bureau





Stedman Graham

Guest Speaker

Stedman Graham is chairman and CEO of S. Graham & Associates (SGA), a management and marketing consulting company that specializes in the corporate and educational markets. Clients include Merrill Lynch, The Apollo Group, DutchVersity, Monster.com, Manpower, Harvard and Wharton Business Schools, the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor and many more.

As a businessman, educator and speaker, he presents, consults and conducts training with corporations, organizations and nonprofits on the topics of identity development, maximizing leadership, achieving success, and personal and professional branding. His corporate seminars are driven by the Nine-Step Success Process®, a life and learning management system designed to organize your life around your identity.

Graham has authored eleven books, including two New York Times bestsellers, *You Can Make It Happen: A Nine-*

Step Plan for Success and *Teens Can Make It Happen: Nine Steps to Success*. His latest release, *Identity: Your Passport to Success*, reached number six on the Wall Street Journal Bestseller list for Hardcover Business books.

Actively involved in education, he is a former adjunct professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago where he taught a leadership course based on his Nine-Step Process. At the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, he taught a management strategy course entitled "The Dynamics of Leadership." He also founded and directed George Washington University's Forum for Sport and Event Management and Marketing - the first of its kind in the country. Graham is a current adjunct professor for several universities around the country.

Graham holds a bachelor's degree in Social Work from Hardin-Simmons University. He received a master's degree in Education from Ball State University and an honorary doctorate in Humanities from Coker College.





Myrlie Evers Williams

Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

“Any serious discussion of the civil rights movement’s future must deal with at least four moral and organizational imperatives—stewardship, inclusiveness, concern for the disadvantaged, and re-dedication to non-violence as both ethical and effective tools for struggle.”

It was February 1995. With these words Myrlie Evers began her legendary tenure as chairman of the NAACP after defeating the incumbent by one vote. The NAACP was in disrepair and plagued with financial difficulties, scandal and controversy. Ms. Evers’ positive reputation among civil rights activists made her election a cause for renewed optimism among NAACP supporters. Through her unwavering vision as a leader and with determined spirit, she is credited with spearheading the operations that restored the Association to its original status as the premier civil rights organization in America.

She became the first elected chairman-emeritus of the NAACP in 1998 when she retired to establish the Medgar Evers Institute, linking business, government, and communities to further human rights and equality. Today, she serves as the chairman

Myrlie Evers is perhaps best remembered as the widow of Medgar Evers, the Mississippi state field secretary for the NAACP who in 1963 was gunned down in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. She waged a painstaking battle to keep her husband’s memory and dreams alive and valiantly lobbied to bring his killer to justice. Her diligence eventually paid off when the assassin was brought to trial for a third time and finally, in 1994, was found guilty of the murder of Medgar Evers, more than 30 years after the crime.

Always a voter-registration activist, Evers became a candidate to represent the 24th Congressional District of California in 1970. She went on to become the first black woman to head the Southern California Democratic Women’s Division and was convener of the National Women’s Political Caucus.

Her corporate career began in 1973 with a two year term with the New York firm, Selligman and Latz, Inc. where she held the position of vice president for advertising and publicity. For 10 years Evers-Williams worked for Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO), serving first as the national director for community affairs, and later as director, consumer affairs. During her tenure at ARCO she developed the concept for the first corporate booklet on women in non-traditional jobs, “*Women at ARCO*”.

In 1988, she was the first black woman to be named to the five-member Board of Public Works by Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley, where she helped oversee a budget of

nearly \$1 billion.

As an author, Myrlie Evers Williams has captured the work and historical significance of the civil rights movement through several publications chronicling the life of Medgar Evers. In 1967, she co-wrote *For Us, the Living*, with William Peters; and in 2006, with co-author Manning Marable, she penned *The Autobiography of Medgar Evers: A Hero’s Life and Legacy Revealed Through His Writings, Letters and Speeches*.

In 1999, she published her personal memoirs, *Watch Me Fly: What I Learned on the Way to Becoming the Woman I Was Meant to Be*, which charts her journey from being the wife of an activist to becoming a community leader in her own right.

In addition to holding 16 honorary degrees from leading colleges and universities, Evers is a recipient of numerous civil rights, human rights and community awards. Her governance expertise has been recognized by national and international organizations. In 2007, as NAACP chairman-emeritus, she led a delegation to Paris France to present the Conseil Representatifs des Associations Noires (CRAN) with a recognition award in support of its efforts to achieve racial equality and social justice for black Frenchmen and women. She has been the featured keynote speaker for renowned organizations such as the Milken Institute and TEDx. Augmenting her social justice advocacy work, she remains an often sought after lecturer at colleges and universities.

In January 2012, Myrlie Evers was invited to return to the campus of Alcorn State University in Mississippi, where she is distinguished scholar-in-residence.

Balancing her passion for justice and equality with her love and training for music, her diverse talent was highlighted in a special invitational concert series at Carnegie Hall in December 2012.

In January 2013, President Barack Obama selected Myrlie Evers to deliver the invocation during his second Inauguration, making her the first woman and lay person to have the honor.

Today, Myrlie Evers serves as the chairman of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute (MMEI) and continues the mission of championing civil rights with a focus on history, reconciliation, and education for a new generation of leaders.





Jack Reed, Jr. Master of Ceremony

Jack was born and raised in Tupelo. He graduated with honors from both Tupelo High School and Vanderbilt University. At the University of Mississippi School of Law he served on the Editorial Board of the Mississippi Law Journal and as President of the Law School Student Body.

While at THS he was proud to have been half of the first pair of black/white roommates on the football team and is proud to have been a part of Tupelo's peaceful integration of the public schools.

Jack has devoted much time and energy to putting back into his communities – both local and state. He has served as Chairman of the Community Development Foundation, the United Way of Greater Lee County, Northeast Mississippi Habitat for Humanity, The Free Clinic, the Kiwanis Club, the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association, and the Mississippi Economic Council. He is a Big Brother in the Big Brother Program.

He joined Reed's in 1980 after several years practicing law in Tupelo. He became President in 1987.

During his time Reed's was named Mississippi's First "Store of the Year" by the prestigious Mississippi Business Journal, and has been chosen Tupelo and Lee County's Friendliest Store 14 years in a row.

In 2009 the voters elected him Mayor. One of his primary goals was to restore the excellent race relations that had begun to unravel. By all accounts, this was accomplished.

When his term expired in 2013 Tupelo had earned its 4th All America City Award; won the title "Mississippi's Healthiest City"; built the South's finest new Aquatic Center; and a new Tupelo Police Athletic League facility. Mayor Reed left behind a balanced budget, a \$20 million reserve fund (without a tax increase), and a sincere appreciation for the men and women who give their lives to public service.

Jack and his wife Lisa have two children – a daughter Kirk Reed Forrester, who with her husband Tate, have two daughters, Bess and Reed; and a son Jack, who is married to Ashley.

His personal motto is "God wants life to be a party; it's up to us to make sure that everyone is invited."



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*Kerry Jones,
Customer Service Manager*

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We Also Congratulate

Mrs. Myrlie Evers-Williams,

First Recipient of the

ourMississippi Lifetime Achievement Award

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Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings,
different hopes, different dreams.*

– Jimmy Carter