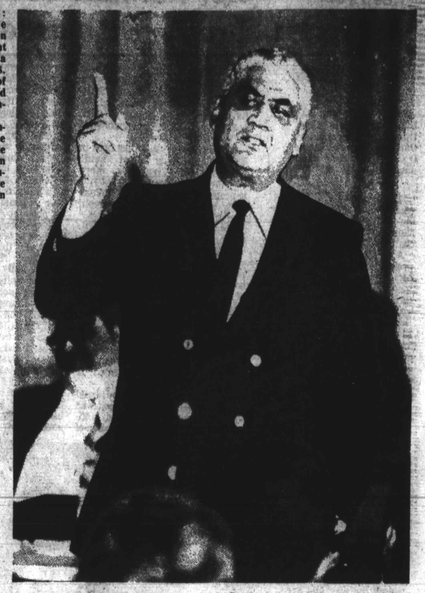
Joe Howard—from civic activist to President's choice

TRIST — Judge Joseph C. Howard is shown here right after his election to the Supreme Bench in 1971 with his all black staff including (L to R) Mrs. Dorothy Phillips, secretary; Miss Alfreda Wiggins, bailiff and Calvin Payne, court stenographer.



CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVITIES — Joe Howard during his campaign attacking the racial inequities in the court system.

FAMILY MAN — Judge Howard when he was assistant states attorney with his wife and son.

FAMOUS FATHER AND BROTHER — Charles P. Howard Sr. (R) who was an award winning jounalist and his son Charles P. Howard Jr., a well known attorney, read about Joseph Howard when he released his report on racial inequities in the court system.

LEGAL GODFATHER — Joseph Howard served as the mentor to many young attorneys and community leaders who today are making their own mark in Baltimore. Some of those persons include Daniel P. Henson III, (sitting), William H. "Billy" Murphy (fourth from L) and Larry Gibson (second from R).

EDITOR'S NOTE: Supreme Bench Judge Joseph Howard has been nominated by President Jimmy Carter to fill a vacancy on the U.S. District Court of Maryland and has a good chance of being confirmed by the Senate.

On the eve of his confirmation, we are reprinting some of Judge Howard's thoughts on justice and racial concerns from an exclusive AFRO interview in December 1977.

AFRO: Would you consider yourself a black first or a judge first?

Howard: I've been black a helluva lot longer than I've been a judge. I recognize who I am, where I came from, all the time. But I also recognize my responsibilities as a judge.

AFRO: Would you consider putting being black in front of being a judge, or would you put a judge in front of being black?

Howard: I try, in my life to synchronize my conscience with my conduct. My conscience is made up of a number of basic elements. One of those basic elements is the recognition that I am black.

This gives me a kind of perspective as I look at the law, as I look at life, and look at what I must do in the justice system.

So, I suppose with that definition, whether I want it or not — for indeed it is thrust upon me quite often — I'm black and then I'm a judge. This is not a decision made solely by me. Many people who look at me — and all back judges — see me as being black first and a judge second.

But I don't think it makes a great deal of difference in the handling of the decision. For the synchronization of my conscience with my conduct demands that I do justice for everybody that comes before me, white and black.

AFRO: Would you comment on one of the things that had a great impact on you since you have been on the bench?

Howard: The realization of how restricted the control of the justice system has been, and indeed continues to be in the hands of a small group of lawyers that dominate the city and state bar associations.

That same group also dominates the progress and policy among lawyers, and dominates and controls the ability of minorities and women to become members of the bar. That realization is probably the most shocking as to my feeling about justice in this city and state.

AFRO: What is the difference between a physically black person and a psychologically black person?

Howard: Historically and generally, others than black people have selected leadership by way of appointment. And when it was required, they selected physically black people. That is people who are obviously black by way of their physical features.

But I think the city of Baltimore and the state of Maryland, by way of their chief executives and others, have tended to shy away from — and indeed exclude — what I call a psychologically black man.

A psychologically black man is one who has a point of departure, a sense of value and a commitment to the causes of poor and powerless people. One who is concerned about change and recognizes that there is a need for change and has the courage to move in the direction of creating change that is needed.

AFRO: The state's penal institutions have been criticized for being overcrowded. Currently there are plans to build a new prison in east Baltimore. The city jail has twice the population it was built for. Where does it all end?

Howard: You hit the nail on the head. As I said before, we're concentrating on consequences that are painful to people in order to control, rather than deal with any of the causes that put people in the position to commit the kinds of crimes of which we speak.

It is shocking to one's conscious to recognize that the jails are so full, that when you sentence a man to ten years, it is probable that he will be out in less than two, and possible that he will be out in less than one.

We discussed this at our bench meeting. The Parole and Probation Department has the power to remove him from the system immediately. This is all because of the crowded conditions, the inability to house individuals at the rate they are coming in.

I absolutely cannot understand the thinking of those who are in power in maintaining this kind of system. It is certainly less than what any victim deserves, it's less than what society deserves, and it's less than what the defendant deserves.

AFRO: So where does it all end?

Howard: I don't know. It seems to me that we are moving in the direction of creating bigger and more prisons in order to house more individuals. Again, we are dealing with consequences rather than causes. I don't see any end, anything attracted as a goal at this point.

Mitchell to head national urban policy confab

Rep. Parren J. Mitchell is expected to announce next week that he will sponsor a national conference on urban policy in Washington to be scheduled sometime diring the fall.

The announcement will be made in Washington at a press conference Monday, June 4 at 8 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency Inn, 400 New Jersey Ave. in Washington, D.C.

Mitchell will announced he will serve as the national chairman for the conference with Delegate Larry Young, D-38th, head of the Center for Urban Environmental Studies Inc., a Washington based minority environmental organization, serving as conference coordinator.

The major two-day conference is being planned for the purpose of stimulating interest in a national urban policy and developing action plans for implementation.

It is an extension of President Jimmy Carter's theme of a "new partnership to conserve America's communities" and will be followed by a series regional meetings. No firm date or place has been set.

After the press conference Mitchell will participate in a urban policy seminar sponsored by CUES.

Summer camp dates open

The Annapolis Youth Services Bureau and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore 1979 Summer Camp Program is scheduled for the following weeks, July 9 - 13, July 16 - 20, July 23 - 27.

Camp applications and medical forms for participants must be completed and on file at the Bureau by no later than July 3, 1979.

The cost of this year's program is $20 per participant for each week of attendance. The cost must be paid prior to departure.

The number of participants will be limited to 50 youths per session. Applications will be solicited from communities which are presently served by the Bureau.

In the event of an over load of applicants, preference will be given to those individuals who have received services from the Bureau within the past year.

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MORNING AND EVENING HOURS

5 top pupils receive honors

School 39 grads get diplomas at Commencement on June 22

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
Photos by Glasco Ryales

Commencement exercises will be held at 12:30 p.m. on June 22 for approximately 80 6th Grade graduates of Dallas F. Nicholas Elementary School No. 39. The event is at Calvert Adult Center on North Avenue.

The youngsters who will be registering in the city's Junior High Schools in September will wear red gowns and white caps.

They will receive diplomas from Principal Earl Boone and be accorded all rights and privileges of any other academic graduate on their grade level.

The 6th Graders will also enjoy a program during the commencement hour, hear "Reflections of the Year" nostalgic songs they will always remember and the music of the School 39 instrumental students.

School 39 (Dallas Nicholas Elementary photos and stories inside today)

The top five graduates are Karen Ray, Paul Moore, Delmas Woods, Antoine Garrison and Del Rico Leeper. These high - ranking youngsters will enroll at the Roland Park School and study on the Enrichment Program.

The remaining graduates will attend these junior high schools in the fall: Northern Parkway No. 93; Robert Poole No. 56 and Clifton Park No. 60.

However, before the closing day program, the 6th Graders will also receive honors at the Awards Assembly which includes honorees from all classes. The PTA has scheduled an affair on the calendar for the last days.

Highlight of the Farewell to Dear Old Dallas Nicholas Elementary programs is the June 6 Trip To New York. The 6th Graders will assemble at 8:15 a.m. at Pennsylvania Railroad Station on Charles and board the AMTRAK train for New York accompanied by teachers James Poney, Mrs. Floreen Brickens and Leanna Gutherie.

The tour of the "Big Apple" (New York) includes the Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, lunch and the United Nations. Many parents plan to be with the graduates on the memorable day.

FIRST GRADERS at Dallas F. Nicholas Elementary School No. 39 take a look at the trophies in the front hall as they prepared to end the 1978 - 79 school session. Almost ready for summer vacation are Tyrone Bryant, Sean Davis, Marcis Simms, Lakesha Crosby, Patricia Brown, Deric Garrison and Vonetta Horrey.

SIXTH GRADE GRADUATES — Sean Blount, Michael Tinney, Troy Green, Mark Harris, John Harvey, Robert Hopkin, Derrick Phillips, James Smith, Errick Thomas, Charles Williams, Rodney Eggleston, Kenneth Parnell, Aaron Curdup, Mark Vinson, Carolyn Co[illegible] Doughty, Harriett Ellerby, Sherese Ferguson, Joya Jenkins, Corinthia Moss, Lynda Smith, Edith Douglas, Michael Alston, James Brandom, Karen Ray, Preston Collins, Albert Garner, Elliott Gibson, James Jennings, Walter Joseph, Terry Lawrence, George Martin, Lénis Shufford, Gregory Smith, Helena Blakeny, Gracey Clark, Cassandra Clay, Sharon Cornish, Chandra Daughton, Andrea Edmonds, Laquaria Hayes, Gwendora Jackson, Thersa Jones, Geneva Lynch, Ernestine Marshall, Jervette McClean, Maria Moore, Michelle President, Roslyn Spencer, Jamel Walls, Bruce Teal, Antoin Garrison, Andrien Garri[illegible] [illegible]ers, Marvin Brown, Nelson Hayes, Larry Lunch, Duran Whales, Samuel Graham, Darrell Seward, Michael Bridges, Michael Vinson, Del- Rico Leeper, Norman Patterson, Delmas Woods, Purnell Wilson, Samuel Vamstory, Robert Fountain, Tanya Bridges, Sandra Cannady, Bridget Dubose, Lesetta Gamble, Sabra Haynes, Diane H[illegible], Darlene Mason and Martina Mills.

Her finest hour

THE FIRST TIME in 50 years Mrs. Mary Blake was Queen For A Day.

For the first time in 50 years Mrs. Mary Blake received highest honors from her Ebenezer Baptist Church. She had been treasurer of the Usher Board since 1929 and had never looked for any thanks. She enjoyed her post and modestly accepted the job accounting for every penny.

But when the 50th year dawned, members of the Board and President Maggie Fullard said it was about time praise came the faithful lady's way.

Sunday, May 27, was the date and by 3 p.m. the church was filled with 50 ushers, members of four choirs, scores of family and friends and the program for the 67th Anniversary and honors for Mrs. Blake went down the aisle of the main auditorium.

Mrs. Blake wept softly as she received the ushers' plaque, the AFRO's citation, an orchid and a special bouquet.

Highlight of the impressive affair was the presentation of flowers to members and friends by Mrs. Fullard; Lottie Brown, Deacon Ransom, Romaine Suggs, Skinny Jefferson, pianist from Whitestone Baptist; James Harris, Wayland; Bessie Green, Susie Morton, Mary Logan, Atti Sturgpus;

Bettye Graves, Ruth Morton, Bertha Tucker, Julia Mae Price, 2nd Baptist; Mary Westbrooks, Mt. Calvary Holiness; Mary Dutton, Anna Jordan, wife of the founder; William Thornton, Melvin Thomas, Lillien Booze, ushers' president 10 years; Bessie Mae Cooper, Sharon Johnson, Catherine Brooks, Elizabeth Robinson. Mary Pryor, Elizabeth M. Oliver, Robert Daniel, Calvin Monroe, Donald Mack, Robin Grines.

Mrs. Virginia Parris presided. Others on the program: Rev. Clarence Poole, pastor; Mesdames Connie Kelly, Ella Robinson, Jennie Simons, Martha Clark, other visitors and friends.

Ushers officers are Mrs. Fullard, president; Mrs. Jurena Alexis, vice; Mrs. Simons and William Thornton, secretaries; Mrs. Blake, treasurer, Connie Kelly, chaplain; Lillian Booze, advisor.

Brailey-Boucher team holds 7th successful honors banquet

Del. Troy Brailey and William Boucher III, co - chairmen of the Citizens Awards Dinner Committee, for the seventh straight year assembled the most important local, state and national citizens at a scholarship banquet May 24.

The interracial group of 700 not only included Brailey's "Important Little People" but also, Lt. Gov. Bogley, members of the General Assembly, Supreme Bench jurists, City Councilmen, U.S. Senators and Representative and other "top brass".

In addition, officials came from the national, state and local unions, important businesses such as Bethlehem Steel. C and P. Tel. Co., Parks Sausage, the International Longshoremens Asso. and numerous churches and industries.

Special guests were the Carter children who received the 1972, the first scholarship and subsequent educational aid, Rev. James Carter, who supported his brothers and sisters after the death of their parents and went on to school.

A 1979 June Morgan University graduate, he is now pastor of New Bethlehem Baptist Church.

Also, Miss Carolyn Carter, a senior at U of Md. Nursing School; Larry, a Coppin State sophomore; Ned Jr., a U of Md. engineering sophomore Kevin, a MSU sophomore; Valarie, a September '79 Coppin freshman; Dale, 14, a Walbrook Sr. High student.

Honorees at the banquet were Henry G. Parks, founder of the Parks Sausage Co., and Dominic N. Fornaro, president of the Maryland D.C. Council of AFL - CIO Unions. Each received plaques and extended praise from a roster of speakers plus the AFRO citation from City Editor Elizabeth M. Oliver, Mayor Schaefer, Gov. Hughes and Congressman Parren J. Mitchell.

Mr. Fonaro was cited for his longtime, frontline civil rights battle and persistent fight for employment and the rights of all people.

Mr. Parks was cited for his efforts in the recreation and employment of young people and service as an official of the Voluntary Council on Equal Employment and jobs through his own firm.

Guest speaker, Mal Goode of the National Black Network and former United Nations correspondent, was introduced by AFRO President John J. Oliver Sr. as the "dean of black journalists."

Congressman Parren J. Mitchell was represented by Executive Assistant Clarence Bishop.

Headtable guests were Senator and Mrs. Charles McMathias, Senator and Mrs. Paul Sarbanes, Lt. Gov. Sam W. Bogley, AA County Executive and Mrs. Robert Pascal; Walter Sondheim, representing Mayor Schaefer; Clarence and Mrs. Bishop; John J. Oliver Sr., AFRO president; Elizabeth M. Oliver, City Editor; Mal Goode; Del. and Mrs. Troy Brailey, William and Mrs. Boucher III; Mr. Parks, Mr. Fonaro;

Herbert B. Cahan, former WJZ - TV vice - president; Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Alexander, Judge Rita Davidson, William Pollard, National AFL - CIO Civil Rights Division; Thomas M. Bradley, president, Metro - Baltimore Council AFL - CIO.

Dr. Harold A. Carter, pastor New Shiloh Baptist Church, his daughter Miss Weptomonia Carter II; Senator Robert L. Douglass, chairman, Legislative Black Caucus; John B. Ferron, executive director, Baltimore Human Relations Commission;

Travis and Mrs. Vauls, executive director, Urban League; Mary F. Brown, soloist, Leadenhall Baptist Church; Rabbi Murray Saltzman, Baltimore Hebrew Congregation; David L. Glenn, executive director, Maryland Human Relations Commission and Joan Cooper, Afro - American Labor Council.

Vice - Chairmen — Frederick O'Neal, Herbert B. Cahan.

Secretary — Brooks Robinson

Treasurer — Joan E. Cooper.

HONOREES Henry G. Parks Jr. and Dominic N. Fornaro and hosts Del. Troy Brailey, (C) and William Boucher III (R).

THE CARTER FAMILY, Larry, Ned Jr., Carolyn, Kevin, Dale and Rev. James Carter, honorees at the Brailey - Boucher banquet.

Honorary Chairmen

Gov. Harry R. Hughes, Mayor Schaefer, Hon. Paul S. Sarbanes, Hon. Charles McC. Mathias, Hon. Parren J. Mitchell, John H. Murphy, III, Samuel T. Daniels, William M. Passano, Sr., Thomas M. Bradley and Walter Wad- dy. HONORARY VICE CHAIRMEN

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