Women in Leadership Roles

NEA PRESIDENT — Mrs. Mary Hatwood Futrell, a classroom teacher in Alexandria, Virginia, was named president of the National Education Association on Sept. 1, 1983. She will serve a two-year term for the 1.7 million member organization.

CONGRESSWOMAN Cardiss Collins, Dem rat of Chicago, is one of two black women now serving in the United States Congress. Rep. Collins took over the congressional seat upon the death of her husband.

FLORETTA MCKENZIE has been superintendent of District of Columbia public schools since 1980 when she succeeded Dr. Vincent Reed. Her direction and guidance of the city education program has resulted in higher ratings for D.C. schools.

HERE SHE IS . . . Miss America. She is Vanessa Williams, the first black woman to hold the "Miss America™" title. She won the title at the annual Atlantic City pageant and is your , gifted and beautiful.

'Black Wings' highlights air pioneers, achievements

By Harry B. Webber

Dr. Albert E. Forsythe, pioneer air pilot, was at last suitably honored this past Tuesday night at Newark Museum where 1000 heard him highlight his cross - country, Canadian and Caribbean flights in the nineteen thirties.

The occasion was the "Black Wings" celebration that began in the Smithsonian in Washington, went to the Museum of Natural History in New York and then to the Newark Museum.

The affair here was preceded by a press conference attended by over 50 guests and presided over by Gus Heningberg. It featured talks by Samuel C. Miller, Museum director; Robert J. Aronson, director of Aviation in the Federal Aviation Administration, Theodore H. Robinson of N.Y. Air Carrier; Ray Williams, president of the Greater N.Y. Chapter Tuskegee Airmen; Eddie Hadden, president of the Organization Airline Pilots and William M. Einreinhofer of WNET who interviewed Dr. Forsythe on a big TV screen.

Forsythe detailed the experiences of he and co - pilot C. Alfred Anderson in the 1933 initial flight to Los Angeles from Atlantic City, their problems with limited instruments, limited gas, high winds, desert heat. Their second flight to Montreal was less dangerous but also had its problems. Their third flight to the Caribbean was preceded by contact with embassies of Caribbean Nations here, so that they were welcomed at every capital.

Forsythe also addressed the 1000 guests in the lobby of the Museum where food and drinks were served. Museum director Miller spoke of "an exhibition which literally surrounds us with fascinating important and moving accounts of personal bravery and courage on the part of black American men and women." Other lobby speakers included Rev. Ralph T. Grant, Mayor Kenneth Gibson and others.

Pictures that festooned the walls were not only of the Forsythe - Robinson flights, but the rise of black pilots in two World Wars with emphasis on the 99th Pursuit Squadron of Tuskegee that performed in World War Two under Gen. Benjamin O. Davis.

A lecture series on the exhibits includes Early Days Before World War II on Feb. 12 and the Tuskegee Experiment Feb. 19 where Roscoe C. Brown and Lee Archer will speak.

Jean Heningburg of The Links presented an emblem to Dr. Forsythe and his wife, Dr. Mary Burch of The League and husband, Reynolds Burch spoke. The Links, N.J. Business and Professional Women, and Council of Airport Opportunity aided in the affair.

Forsythe also underlined the complete lack of pilot training for blacks in his day. Dr. Burch was a flight surgeon.

In the crowd Maria Martinez noted Paula Washington of CCC, the Edwin Haddens, Esq. of Englewood, he, a pilot also; Mary Mathis, Dorthea Lee, Sally Carroll, Juniues Williams, Esq.; Lennie Coleman, Bobby Cottle, Richard Bland, Hank Pryor, Mitchelle Smalley of Port Authority; Pat Miller, Jessie Parish, Laura Haylong, Doug Woodard of N.Y., Ruby Bostic.

D.C. singer-historian seeks change in National Anthem

Reginald B. Jackson, singer - historian historian, has devoted 15 years to his dream of having the fourth stanza (replacing the first) of the National Anthem become a part the "official version" when the final issue of the National Anthem (postponed in 1981) is to be decided in 1985.

Remarked Jackson: "We've had a 'service' and 'educational' version, but not an 'official' version.

The idea germinated in 1968 during a campaign address in Canton, Ohio by presidential candidate Richard Nixon where a plea from a sign held by a 13-year-old read: "Please Bring Us Together."

An earnest and persistent search led Jackson to the last stanza of Francis Scott Key's poem The Star Spangled Banner: "Oh, thus be it ever when free men shall stand..." He believes that the last stanza, if observed, would bring all Americans together at last.

"We (Blacks, Hispanics, Women, American Indians, etc. were here in America way before the Star-Spangled Banner was written (1814). "However, when the founding fathers wrote the Constitution, we the minority, were ,excluded," states Jackson, but, "The hopes and aspirations of a 'new day' and a 'new people,' with a cause for optimism can best be summed-up in the last stanza (hopefully, to be the first) which should be sung whenever the National Anthem is sung."

Two local radio stations and individual sympathizers have aided and abetted his crusade. They are as follows: WHMM-TV (Channel 32), which plays the seven days a week—every morning at 9 a.m. and again at 12:30 a.m. (sign-off); WMAL-AM 63. Tom Gauger has been playing for sometime now the first and fourth stanzas of the National Anthem as sung and played by the Mormon Tabernacle Cheir and the Philadelphia Orchestra every Monday at 10:05 a.m.

Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY); Phil Watson (WHUR-FM); Roger Shinn (Union Theological Seminary); Thomas V. Hall (librarian and curator of the American Legion in Indianapolis) and Reggie Jackson (no relation) of the New York Yankees.

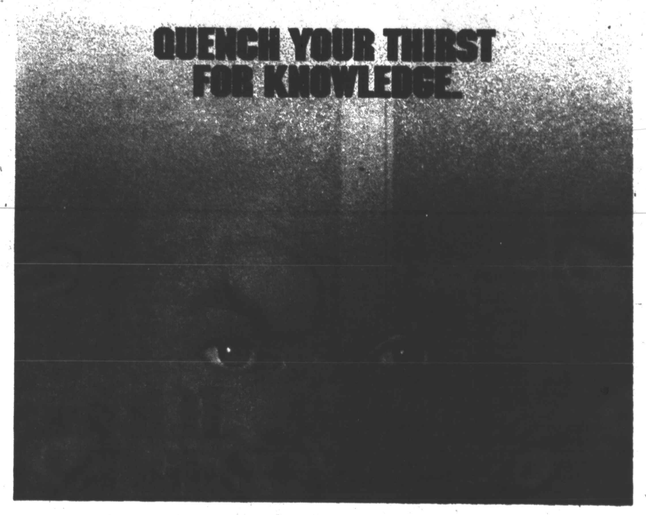
In addition, articles featuring Jackson's National Anthem campaign have appeared in the Washington's Afro-American newspaper, the dates of which are Dec. 7, 1968 and August 30, 1980, respectively.

Congressman Rangel's enthusiam and support for Jackson's campaign are best observed from a statement in his letter to Jackson: "Because the fourth stanza concerns itself with the basic premises upon which this nation was founded and most importantly the individual dignity of all people, it merits being brought to the attention of the American public.'

Born in Richmond, Va. and reared in Washington, Reginald B. Jackson attended Howard University's School of Music where he was enrolled as a special music student for three years. Continuing his vocal training with Professor Chauncey Hall Northern of the Carnegie Hall Studios in New York City, Jackson became a member of the Metroplitan Opera Chorus and a soloist for the St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

BLACK LIFE IN MARYLAND

The Oxon Hill Branch Library will feature William A. Diggs' "Black Life in Maryland," a special Black History Month program for all ages, on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 2 to 2:30 p.m. Diggs will use artifacts and slides to illustrate Southern Maryland's Black culture from the days of slavery to the passage of the Civil Rights Act.



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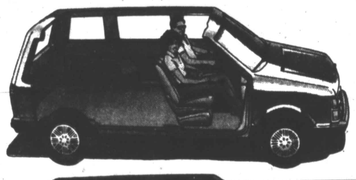

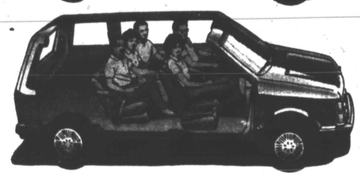

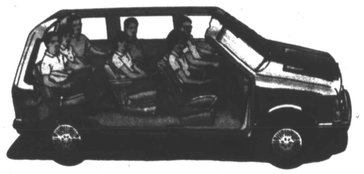

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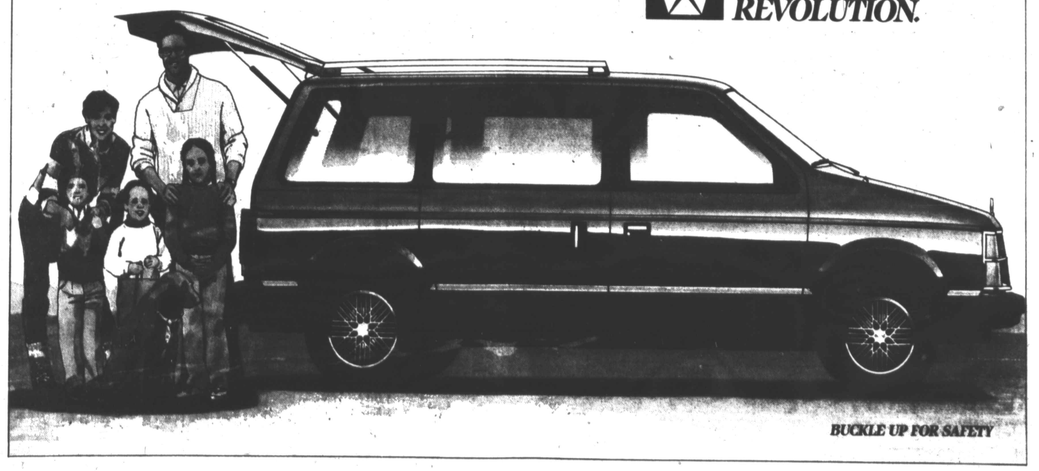
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