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## Full Military Honors for Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Charles W. "A-Train" Dryden

ATLANTA — Lieutenant Colonel Charles W. Dryden (USAF-Retired), who passed away on Tuesday, June 24, 2008, in Atlanta, GA, will be given full military honors at the interment which takes place at Arlington National Cemetery on September 24, 2008. The forty-five minute ceremony takes place at 9:00 a.m.



Lt. Colonel Charles W. Dryden

Guests attending the ceremony should arrive at the Arlington National Cemetery at 8:30 a.m. to receive directions to the site of the interment.

Charles Walter Dryden was born on September 16, 1920, in New York City to Jamaican parents, Charles Levy Tucker Dryden and Violet Buckley Dryden. In his book, A-Train: Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman, Dryden recalls, "Airpwane! Airpwane!" is how this two-year-old, tearing paper into bits and throwing them into the air, told the world that he wanted to fly airplanes. And after many a trial and tribulation, flying airplanes is what Chuck Dryden did. He lived out his dream. And then he lived to write about it. After his book was published, he realized a renaissance in his career and enjoyed the celebrity which his stellar career afforded him.

Following graduation from Peter Stuyvesant High School in New York City Dryden earned a BA in Political Science from Hofstra University and an MA in Public Law and Government from Columbia University. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of

See Lt. Colonel Charles W. Dryden, page 17



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### Savannah Memory Walk Festival- Johnson Square-Saturday, Sept. 27

Join Mayor Otis Johnson, County Commissioner Chairman, Pete Liakakis and Assistant DA, David Locke for the Alzheimer's Association's 7th Annual Memory Walk Saturday, September 27 in Johnson Square, downtown Savannah from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. People across Coastal Georgia are invited to participate in this year's event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research programs. This inspiring event calls on volunteers of all ages to become Champions in the fight against Alzheimer's and help support Programs and Services in our local communities. Come enjoy great music by Bucky and Barry, BBQ from Sticky Fingers, and fun for all ages!

Start your team today or make a donation by visiting the Alzheimer's Association at www.georgiamemorywalk.org or call 912-920-2231 for more information.

**To Ensure Triumph, It Takes All Of Us**

## Early Voting Gets Underway Registration Deadline is October 6



Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson and other community leaders were among those taking advantage of Early Voting.

Savannah Mayor Otis Johnson, along with other Savannah leaders and residents voted early in person on Monday, September

22nd. Although Early Voting has started for the November 4 Election, citizens may still register until October 6 and

vote in this historic election. This is the first election under GA's new laws which allows people to absentee vote in person without giving a rea-

son. An historic voter turnout is expected this year which means long lines on election day. See **Early Voting**, page 20

## Judge Tammy Stokes Elected President of the Municipal Court Judges Council of Georgia

At the June business meeting of Georgia's municipal court judges, the judges elected the Honorable Tammy Stokes as their President of the Municipal Court Judges Council of Georgia. Judge Stokes serves as Chatham County Records Court Judge,

Judge Tammy Stokes (right)

having been appointed by the City Council and Chatham County Commission in 2004. It is of note that she is Chatham County's first African American woman judge. She is also the first African American woman to serve as President of Georgia's Municipal



Court Judges Council.

Georgia has 400 Municipal and local courts where the judges conduct non-jury trials and are authorized to impose sentences and fines in accordance with applicable law. Each year, the Municipal Courts in Georgia handle more than 1.2 million filings, and its judges conduct several hundred thousand hearings and trials annually. The Municipal Courts generate sufficient revenues to not only support the operation of the judicial branch of government in the state but also return significant gen-

See **Judge Stokes**, page 3

## The Big Show Savannah - Celebrating the Spirit of Savannah



One of the icons to be spotlighted First African Baptist Church

A Great Festival for One of Savannah's Great Streets

Local business leaders, entertainers, artists, religious leaders, elected officials, com-

munity and neighborhood activists and the general public are set to help highlight the culture and heritage of Savannah and the Coastal Area.

Slated for Friday thru Sunday October 31- November 2, 2008, along the Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., from Gwinnett Street, north to the Earl T. Shinoster Overpass, adults and children of all ages will be able to join in the merriment and enlightenment of the first annual THE BIG SHOW SAVANNAH-Celebrating the Spirit of Savannah. The 2008 theme is Live Green - Save the Planet.

"In addition to highlighting the history and culture of the Savannah area, it will also be a great opportunity to call attention

See **The Big Show**, page 17

## McCants to Keynote Spirit of Excellence Black Business Awards

Gerry McCants is the keynote speaker for The Spirit of Excellence Black Business Awards 6th annual celebration of African American businesses and extraordinary individuals on Saturday, October 18, 6:30 pm at Savannah Marriott Riverfront. Gerry is living proof of this year's theme "We Are On The Move"!



Gerry McCants

Gerry McCants is president of McCants Communications Group, Inc. headquartered in Greensboro, North Carolina. He formerly was president of Thomas-McCants Media, Inc. for more than 18 years.

See **Spirit of Excellence**, page 18

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