

Human Interest Story

An email was sent out to wish Willis Edwards a Happy Birthday on January 1st and this is one of the beautiful responses he received! Certainly worth reading.

By Yvonna Cázares

Hello Mr. Edwards,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Yvonna Cázares and I received an email from the Friends of the African American Caucus about your birthday. To be honest, I didn't quite recognize your name, so I googled you and found out that my unfamiliarity is not uncommon. I read an excerpt from the LA Times entitled 'Leading From Where He Is..' about your tireless work in civil rights, campaigns and AIDS awareness.

It's funny how some things come across you in life. Had I not received that email, I perhaps, would've not known about you (at least yet). Your story has moved me and affirmed many of my goals and passions related to addressing community health, health disparities, creating an equitable green economy and supporting people who believe in sustainability. I am inspired by you because wherever you are, you affect change.

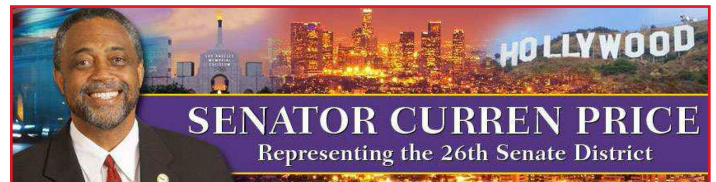
I was born and raised in Palm Springs. So you can imagine how my mouth dropped when I saw that you were too. Many of my friends have succumbed to the few life choices they had growing up here: being incarcerated, not graduating, getting involved with drugs, getting pregnant at an early age, committing suicide or if they're 'lucky,' getting a job in the service industry either in retail, serving the retired in the health industry or now at the Casinos. Those friends of mine who shared honors or AP classes with me in high school meanwhile, have since left the area, gone to prestigious colleges and not returned.

As a young professional in Sacramento, working for a small minority-owned consultancy on climate change, environmental justice, clean energy and community-driven policy, it was always so telling to hear from my family back home in Palm Springs that they have not heard or understood the 'green' goings on. Even local policy-makers in the low-income areas of the desert were still being swayed by unsustainable projects promising to provide jobs. It was hard to hear that good policy ideas at the top were not reaching folks at the bottom.

So when I heard of the chance to support a person who believes in sustainability etc. where I grew up and in an area that has been hardest hit by the downturn, I decided to return home temporarily not only to be a part of his campaign but also to reach out to my community and create awareness about renewable energy opportunities etc. I have a long resume of activism from No on Prop 54, Black Latino AIDS and organ donor awareness and health care for grocery union workers, to more recently Climate Justice, Green Collar Jobs and the Courage Campaign to name a few. But despite my work in issue-based campaigns I had no experience volunteering for a candidate and as a Queer Womyn of Color, I just knew that I would be a strong asset to anyone's campaign.

Anyways, Mr. Edwards, I just wanted to let you know that your story has renewed my hope in fighting for social, economic and environmental justice. And I just wanted to thank you for all that you do and to wish you all the best in the new year. Leaders like you and Rosa Parks have taught me that one can affect change no matter where they are. ★

In Solidarity, Yvonna



Please join Senator Price and Staff at our 26th Senate District Events. Learn about State programs and resources or come to express your concerns on any issues affecting residents in your community.

Senator Price will be hosting a series of four town hall meetings throughout the 26th Senate District to discuss the state's most pressing policy and budgetary issues. The public is welcome to attend any and all of the four town hall meetings in order to become better informed on issues relating to healthcare, senior issues, the state budget, education, and pending legislation coming out of Sacramento.

Please join us at one of these locations:

Saturday, January 16, 2010

Vision Theatre (located at Leimert Park)
3341 43rd Place, Los Angeles, CA 90008
10:00am to 11:30am

Thursday, January 21, 2010

Southwestern Law School
3050 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90005
6:00pm to 7:30pm

Saturday, January 23, 2010

Los Feliz Community Police Center
1965 Hillhurst Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027
10:30am to 12:00pm

Thursday, January 28, 2010

Culver City Senior Center
4095 Overland Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232
6:00pm to 7:30pm

For more information on any of these events please call Senator Price's district office **(213) 745-6656**.



**CONGRATULATIONS
TO HONORABLE
MAE THOMAS
WHO HAS BEEN
ELECTED PRESIDENT
OF COMPTON
SCHOOL BOARD!**



New Frontier Democratic Club

“50” Years Gold



GREETINGS,

Happy New Year and I trust you had a wonderful holiday. Another year dawns for New Frontier Democratic Club and based upon the economy and political landscape you better fasten your seatbelt for this wild ride. I look forward to

working with a wonderful group of committed members on planning our 50th Anniversary events and we are going to be a dynamite team. I am extremely grateful to each and every one of them for agreeing to serve.

Founders, Members, Elected Officials, Community Leaders members, students, and friends of New Frontier are invited to celebrate this important milestone. We look forward to many attending the spectacular events planned for the celebration commemorating our notable past and promising future. The strong partnership between First VP, Patt Sanders and 2nd VP Reverend Joyce Randall ensures that we will have a fun filled and informative year of celebratory events.

We are still open to your ideas in coordinating our event activities. Please contact me with your interest to participate by calling on (323) 960-5727 or by email at cjfowler@att.net. ★

*Imani, (Faith)
Carolyn Fowler, Chair
NFDC “50” Year’s Gold Committee*

Please make note on your calendars of just a few of the upcoming dates that you might not want to miss.

January 19, 2010, General Meeting, Redistricting & Census, 6pm- 8pm
4030 Crenshaw Blvd. DWP Service Center

January 27, 2010, 50th Anniversary Executive Committee Meeting,
4434 Crenshaw Blvd., 6pm-8pm, LA

February 9, 2010, You Count Campaign Kickoff, Aqua Lounge, Beverly Hills

February 21, 2010, New Frontier Installation and Candidate Panel, The Proud Bird, Los Angeles

April 16, 2010, New Frontier 50th Anniversary & Democratic Party Convention Mixer, (TBD)

June 8, 2010, Primary Election

June 19, 2010, Day at the Races, Hollywood Park, Inglewood

October 9, 2010, New Frontier Democratic Club 50th Anniversary Gala. (TBD)

November 2, 2010, General Election