



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**

News Release

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Assemblymember Swanson And Legislative Black Caucus Members Honor Usc Football Legends On State Capital Steps

(Sacramento, CA) – Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda), Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus, joined fellow members of the Caucus in honoring University of Southern California football legends Sam “Bam” Cunningham, Jr., John Papadakis, and Charles Young on the North Steps of the State Capital Monday.

Charles Young, now an ordained minister, opened the event with a benediction. Senator Roderick Wright (D-Inglewood) presented resolutions honoring Cunningham and Papadakis, who co-authored the 2006 book “Turning the Tide: How One Game Changed the South.” A significant portion of the book was the subject of an HBO Sports documentary titled “Breaking the Huddle: The Integration of College Football.

Caucus members also presented a check for \$1,500 to the USC Marching Band, which performed several selections, including the school song. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Vice Mayor Lauren Hammond presented the honorees with a resolution on behalf of the City of Sacramento.

Chairman Swanson accepted a copy of the resolution for the CLBC, stating, “Today, we pay tribute to a momentous and ground-breaking occasion. In these historic times, it is important that we recognize the people whose actions laid the path for so many to follow. We honor these men today for their role in promoting integration in college sports in the South,” Chairman Swanson stated.

The three honorees participated in the historic game between USC and the University of Alabama in 1970. USC’s victory against an all-White team is credited with convincing Alabama football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant to integrate Black players into his team, effectively spelling the end of segregation in college football in the South.

The event was sponsored by the California Cable and Telecommunications Association and the Legislative Black Caucus.

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Assemblymember Swanson addresses the press.

Front (L to R): Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, CLBC Vice-Chair Curren Price, Jr. (D-Inglewood), Assemblymember Isadore Hall (D-Compton), CLBC Chair Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda), Assemblymember Wilmer Amina Carter (D-Rialto), and Sacramento Vice-Mayor Lauren Hammond.

Back: The USC Marching Band Members.

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