



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

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Assembly To Honor Jim Brown, Alvin 'Al' Attles, Jr., Joe Morgan, And Other Legendary African American Figures

(Sacramento) – The California Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) announced today that this Thursday, February 26 at 9:30 am, the Assembly will honor a number of important figures as part of Black History Month.

Under the theme, “Celebrating History, Heritage and Legends,” the Assembly will honor nine individuals and one organization who have stood out as pioneers and leaders in their fields.

“The Legislative Black Caucus is proud to honor these individuals. It is only appropriate that the Assembly show its appreciation for their distinguished careers and contributions toward improving the quality of life for the people of California,” stated Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Oakland), who chairs the LBC.

The honorees are:

- **Mr. Alvin A. "Al" Attles Jr.—NBA Player and Coaching First**
Alvin A. "Al" Attles, Jr, was the first African American Coach of the Golden State Warriors (Oakland). He lead the Warriors to one NBA title, one conference title, two division titles, and six playoff appearances. He and teammate Wilt Chamberlain hold the highest combined scoring total by two players in an NBA game at 117 points.
- **Honorable Karen Bass—Speaker, California Assembly and A National First**
Speaker Karen Bass is the first African American woman Speaker of a State Assembly in our Nation’s history. As a legislator, she is celebrated as a champion for foster care children and accessible health care for under served communities.
- **Mr. Jim Brown—Athlete, Actor, Mentor To Our Youth and Civic Leader**
James Nathaniel Brown is one of the greatest athletes of the 20th Century. For 9 years, he reigned supreme as the most dominant, prolific and feared running back in the National Football League. He founded the Amer-I-Can Program for Social Change, reaching out to young men with the message that there is life and there is hope.
- **Ms. Belva Davis—Television Commentator and Pioneering Journalist**
Belva Davis is our legend in journalism. Following her start as a freelance writer and later as a radio broadcaster, she became the first African American woman television reporter on the West Coast. Currently she is the anchor of *This Week In Northern California* on KQED
- **Honorable Doris A. Davis—First African American Woman Mayor of a Metropolitan City**
Doris A Davis was elected Mayor of the City of Compton, California on June 5, 1973, when she unseated the incumbent. With that victory, she became the first African American woman Mayor of a large metropolitan city in our Nation. Dr. Davis also is the founder of Daisy Child Development Center to support unwed-teenage mothers with life services.

- **Honorable Mervyn M. Dymally—Congressman, Lt. Governor and Legislator**

The Honorable Mervyn M. Dymally was the first foreign born African American to be elected to the United States House of Representatives. He was also the first African American elected to the California State Senate and to serve as Lieutenant Governor for the state of California.

- **Dr. Charlie M. Knight—President, Knight Foundation and Educator**

On June 30, 2003, Dr. Knight retired after serving 42 years in public education as a Superintendent and elementary school teacher. She committed her career to education of inter-city youth. She then established the Knight Foundation, which provides housing for the economically disadvantaged.

- **Dr. La-Doris McClaney—Humanitarian, Philanthropist & Civic Leader**

Dr. La-Doris McClaney is a dynamic woman who embodies the spirit of philanthropy and humanitarianism. She has provided homes for underprivileged children, and has spent 25 years as the owner and operator of a residential care facility servicing clients with mental disabilities. She has also been a mentor and motivational speaker to many.

- **Mr. Joe L. Morgan—Baseball Hall-of-Fame, ESPN Commentator and Role Model**

Joe Morgan won five "Gold Glove Awards", played in ten All-Star games and recorded 692 stolen bases. He was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame on the first ballot. He is also founder and president of the Joe Morgan Youth Foundation, which provides college scholarships and supports development programs for our youth.

- **Mr. Morrie Turner—Cartoonist, Inspiring Children & Community**

Morrie Turner began drawing cartoons in the fifth grade, and created the "Wee Pals" comic strip in 1965 as a way of bringing African American characters to the comic pages. It was Mr. Turner's intention to portray a world without prejudice, a world in which people's differences are cherished.

All of the honorees will first receive recognition at a special reception and dinner on Wednesday evening. Honorees will then receive recognition during the Assembly's floor ceremony the following day.

"At the end of the day, Black history is America's history, and it is a fundamental part of our heritage as Americans. This month is an opportunity to share our history, our heritage, and our legends. It reminds us of what people can accomplish, and inspires the next generation of young Americans to even greater accomplishments," Assemblymember Swanson concluded.

NOTE: A press availability will be held in room 317 on Thursday, February 26th, following the Assembly floor ceremony.

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