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## ARIZONA



## INFORMANT

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# East Valley NAACP Honoring Leaders, Motown's 60th

Get ready for the entertainment extravaganza of the year! Join the East Valley NAACP in celebrating Motown's 60th anniversary and honoring outstanding community leaders. The 2019 Freedom Fund Awards featuring all your favorite Motown hits performed by local artists will be Oct. 12, at Tempe Center for the Arts.

The show will honor local leaders, organizations, and businesses that are making an impact in the community in alignment with the mission of the NAACP. The East Valley NAACP is proud to announce the 2019 honorees:

- President's Award: CAIR Ari-
- Roy Wilkins Humanitarian Award: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Tempe Alumnae Chapter
- Thurgood Marshall Award for Justice: The Hon. Lauren Guyton, Maricopa County Superior Court Commissioner
- · Barack Obama Award for Political Leadership: The Hon. Reginald Bolding, State Representative and Arizona Legislative Black Cau-
- Bass Reeves First Responder Award: Officers Anna Larson and Lindsay Long of the Tempe Police Department

- Caesar Chavez Award for Work*force Diversity:* Intel Corporation
- Dr. Martin Luther King Award for Religious Leadership: Pastor Andre Miller, New Beginnings Church
- Fannie Lou Hamer Award for Voting Rights and Access: National Pan-Hellenic Council of Phoenix
- Ida B. Wells Award for Journalistic Courage: Arizona Informant
- Malala Yousafzai Award for Education Equity: Lloyd Hopkins, Million Dollar Teacher Project
- Navajo Code Talker Award for Veteran Support: The Hon. Ruben Gallego, U.S. Congressman
- Sophie Cruz Youth Activist Award: Claire Wiener, March for Our Lives Arizona
- Next Generation Change Agents Award: Arcadia High School Black Student Union

Tickets are on sale now and you can catch early bird pricing through Sept. 15. So fellas get your tux or smoothest black suit ready, and ladies pull out the gown you've been dying to wear and get ready to be dazzled, Motown style, as we recognize outstanding leaders in our community.

Tickets and information can be found on the East Valley NAACP website at evnaacp.org.

#### THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY: SEP 15 1945

"Pigeon-holes are only comfortable for pigeons." - Jessye Norman, a Grammy-winning opera singer, is born in Augusta, Ga. She was invited to sing during a 9/11 memorial service in March 2002.





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## New NPO Dreams Big

Newly founded nonprofit ElevateMeD is hosting its first launch reception "Explosion of a Dream.... Nothing Is Impossible" 6-9pm Saturday, Sept. 21. Set to take place against the Scottsdale sunset at Hotel Valley Ho's Skyline Rooftop, ElevateMeD seeks to raise more than \$30,000 to launch its inaugural Scholars Program.

ElevateMeD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization managed by a board of directors that was developed out of the need to elevate medicine to an ideal where the physician workforce racially and ethnically represents the community served.

"We are a vehicle for substantive lasting change, " Dr Alyx Porter Umphrey said. "We exist because of the profound struggle presented by the staggering costs of medical education.'

After paying off more than \$250,000 combined in medical school debts, founders of the organization and Scottsdale physicians Dr. Alyx Porter Umphrey and her husband Dr. Gregory Umphrey found it of great importance to

help future physicians from underrepresented backgrounds remove common barriers in their pursuits of practicing medicine and costly specialty programs.

The American Medical Student Association reports (in 2006) that cost is the top reason qualified minority students reported not enrolling in medical school.

According to the American Association of Medical Colleges 2015 report, financial barriers of students of color are on average much heavier continued on page 6

### Marchelle Franklin Among **ATHENA Awards Finalists**

The Greater Phoenix Chamber announced 11 women chosen as finalists for its prestigious ATHENA Awards, continuing its strong tradition of recognizing outstanding Valley businesswomen.

The ATHENA Businesswoman of the Year Award recognizes a woman in the public and private sectors, in addition to highlighting an upcoming leader in the Valley as an ATHENA Young Professional. ATHENA finalists are chosen for their excellence in business and leadership, dedication to the community, and support and mentorship of other women.

Among the public sector finalists is Marchelle Franklin, human service director for the City of Phoenix.

"Knowing that the Athena in Greek mythology represents a wom-



an of wisdom, courage, inspiration, strength and strategy, I am so very humbled to be an ATHENA finalist in the public sector category," Franklin said. "I share this honor with my family, friends and col-

leagues who have molded me into the woman I am today."

The ATHENA Awards highlight women who have achieved the pinnacle of success within their

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