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FREE

Friday

April 30, 2021

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ValleyWeeklyllc.com



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"You can't sing about love unless you know about it."

- Billy Eckstine



AAMU to Hold Annual Founder's Day Virtually

Alabama A&M University will hold its 146th Founder's Day Convocation virtually on Friday, April 30, at 9 a.m. (CST) on <https://www.aamu.edu/campus-life/livestream.html>

The speaker for the occasion will be 1991 alumna Atty. Angela Redmond Debro, General Counsel at

AAMU, where she handles matters dealing with compliance with accreditation standards, NCAA compliance, employee grievances, EEOC charges of discrimination, including those under Title VII, Family Medical Leave Act compliance, real estate

acquisitions, issues surrounding federal grants and contracts and patent and trademark issues.

A native of Greenville, Mississippi, Atty. Debro is the wife of J. Mark Debro, Esq., and the proud mother of son, John Mark, II, and daughter, Lara Page.



HPCAC Issues Report on Police Response to 2020 Protests

The Huntsville Police Citizens Advisory Council (HPCAC) presented its final report on the Huntsville Police Department's response to 2020 protests at the April 22 City Council meeting.

The report was presented by Atty. Elizabeth H. Huntley of Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC.

In summary, the HPCAC addressed appropriate use of chemical agents, use of rubber bullets and the appearance of snipers by other law enforcement agencies, communication

between the multiple law enforcement agencies that were present, communication with the protestor organizations and community, and interagency collaboration in processing actionable intelligence.

The HPCAC recommendations included more officer training, especially for protest events in which police are the subject of the protest, and better communication and clearer roles of engagement between law enforcement agencies and protest organizers.

- HuntsvilleAL.gov

TVW Columnist Publishes Audiobook Version of "Silver-Mettle Leaders"

The audiobook version of The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the Silver-Mettle Leaders was released April 21 (<https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>), completing its "trinity package" of digital/paperback/audio format offerings," author-publisher-narrator tim allston announced.

"When the U.S. coronavirus pandemic crisis posed top national leadership questions, the answers came instead from the nation's second-tier leaders: those governors representing the first, or the hardest-hit, states, . . . who saved many, many lives," allston narrated.

With the 2020 start of the COVID-19 crisis as the back-

drop, this 91-minute audiobook (<https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>) exposes the White House leadership's devaluing of "leaders from the middle," those #2 persons who allston labeled as "silver-mettle' leaders."

Silver-Mettle Leaders: Being #1 @ Being #2: "You are a 'silver-mettle leader' if you:

Report to someone in your organization

- whether it's in the family, workplace or church (silver);

Perform your often-unheralded tasks with character, fortitude and courage (mettle); and

Succeed primarily not through your title or position, but through your influence and your relationships

(leader).

"No organization can thrive or even SURVIVE without its 'leaders from the middle,' . . . and Washington's 2020 COVID-19 response was the daily proof," he concluded.

With no 2020 White House-generated national coronavirus crisis plan, the country's #2 leaders - i.e., five governors (New York's Andrew Cuomo, Maryland's Larry Hogan, Washington State's Jay Inslee, California's Gavin Newsom and Michigan's Mrs. Gretchen Whitmer) - mimicked Jesus Christ's servant leadership style of credibility, teamwork and grassroots empathy.

"Plagiarizing" the Holy Trinity Model

allston: "Just like those five governors mimicked Jesus Christ, this 'trinity package' of digital/print/audio books

mimics intentionally the Holy Trinity of God the Father/God the Son/God the Holy Spirit: proclaiming the same identical message, but utilizing

different overlapping formats - in order to accommodate as many different learning styles as possible!"

Limit-time Free BONUS Sample

For a limited time, this audiobook offers a free sample chapter, when you click on <https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>.



The Valley Weekly

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DLC Grad, TVW Artist John Moore Has Work Selected for Panoply 2021



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The Valley Weekly

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

OUT WITH THE BAD IN WITH THE GOOD

Romans 7:19 says, "For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do this I do." It goes on to say in verse 21, "Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me."

You know, it's hard to believe that there was another mass shooting. But is it really that hard to believe? It is so disappointing to know that there have been 150 mass shootings since the start of this year! Which leads me to this question, do most

people want to do good? Because, for whatever reason now days, it seems they can't. You see, it's not enough to rid ourselves of evil desires and thoughts, but we have to replace them with good thoughts and good desires.

That's why I believe that we all need some kind of "spiritual covering" on a daily basis. In other words, it is important to read God's word on a daily basis. It's also a good idea to read a daily devotional, perhaps like "A Champion Game Plan For Life," to provide spiritual reinforcement.



Remember, just because the devil leaves you alone one day doesn't mean he want come after you and your family another day.

You see, in order for us to defeat the enemies of life, we need a plan. For example, when we look at the parable that Jesus tells in Matthew 12:43-45 about an "evil spirit." The evil spirit was driven out but nothing good was added. That's why any time we try to break a bad habit, like smoking or over-eating or over-spend-

ing, we have to replace that bad habit with something good.

Also, let us stop trying to be good because the "Law" tells us to be good. We should try to be good out of the goodness of our hearts. And, we can't be negative all the time without an equal balance of positive reinforcement.

I believe we can all learn to overcome evil by learning a simple principle. And that principle is, "You can't take something bad out without replacing it with something good ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters, and continue to stay safe

Make sure you check out my book, A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE, on amazon.com



THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

2501 Carmichael Avenue NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Graveside service for MR. JAMES SALES (b. 1991) was held Sunday, April 25, at Valley View Memorial Gardens with Bishop Ernest Clay officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. EDDIE MAE BAKER (b. 1940) was held Saturday, April 24, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church with Reverend Hernandez Ford officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. GLORIA DAWSON (b. 1929), a Rosetta James Foundation Elder, was held Friday, April 23, at Valhalla Memory Gardens with Reverend Dr. Paul Hillard, Jr., officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue

Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Service for MRS. JANIE ADAMS HOLIFIELD (b. 1936), a Rosetta James Foundation Elder, will be announced at a later date.

Public viewing for MRS. ASHAYLA JAQUISE SCOTT (b. 1985) was held from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, April 25, at the Royal Funeral Home.

Graveside service for MR. JOSHUA EUGENE EVERSON (b. 1974) was held Sunday, April 25, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Elder AL Holden officiating.

Funeral service for MRS. DORIS VIRGINIA SMITH (b. 1933) was held Saturday, April 24, at the Greater Mount Carmel Primitive Baptist Church (6570 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Curtis Jordan officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. DELORES ANN BAILEY (b. 1941) was held Friday, April 23, at Oakwood Memorial Gardens (1 H.L. Cleveland Way Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Lance Shand officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. CAROLYN BRADFORD HOLT (b. 1947) was held Thursday, April 22, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Reverend Earla Lockhart officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW

Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral Service for MS. TA-MARIAN FOSTER and REV. FREDERICK HARRIS will be announced at a later date.

MHI Sets Community Watch

The Meadow Hills Initiative, Inc., will hold a Community Watch Awareness & Membership Drive on Thursday, April 29, at 4 p.m.

Offices are located at 2448 Shepherd Drive, Huntsville, Ala. The activity will include fun, prizes, surprises and free food.



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- Hubert Harrison

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www.alabamapublichealth.gov

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

cdc.gov

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Moving from your “Ellis Island” to your “Statue of Liberty”

And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

- Genesis 32:28.

After Jacob wrestled all night with both God and against his past selfishness, God renamed him “Israel”; his descendants and country still bear this name.



Jacob prevailed, moving from failing self-confidence to embracing his new “God-confidence.” This transition is illustrated by contrasting Ellis Island from the Statue of Liberty.

National Ellis Island Family History Day commemorates April 17, 1907. On that date, a record 11,747 immigrants were processed through that New York Harbor port of disembarkation, located near the Statue of Liberty.

From 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island became the first step for some 12 million immigrants to become U.S. citizens; yet, Lady Liberty represented their ultimate goal of American freedom.

Similarly, our quest for true freedom begins by pursuing self-confidence, but that first step must soon elevate to acquiring total dependence on God, “God-confidence.”

Again, back to New York Harbor, . . .

For these new U.S. arrivals, Ellis Island was just their first milepost en route to more permanent American destinations.

Ellis Island was not where for example they could plant gardens, hang curtains, or family mementos. Why? This was simply their first step in pursuing their ultimate goal of freedom, symbolized by Lady Liberty.

Likewise, when you and I pursue anything beginning with “self” - e.g., self-esteem, self-worth, or self-confidence - it represents a necessary first step. Unfortunately, too many of us get comfortable and are stuck indefinitely as its hostages.

Ellis Island “alumni” such as comedian Bob Hope, Albert Einstein, and Harlem Renaissance writer Claude McKay didn’t get stuck there; instead, they used that first step as their springboard to American freedom and success.

Neither you nor I need to remain at dead-end streets beginning with the word “self.”



Let’s begin at our “Ellis Islands of self,” but then rapidly leap to our Statues of Liberty: God-confidence.

She awaits us now with her torch and Declaration of Independence tablet, to lead the way out of our slavery to self.

tim allston is the author of U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders, which will be available on April 29th. Pre-order now on Amazon.

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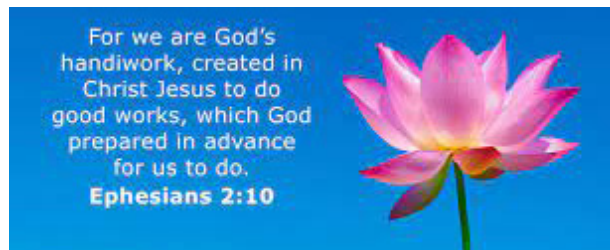
Beware of Copyright Infringement

**Ephesians 2:10;
Philippians 2:12-13**

Being a newcomer to the world of copyrighting, as it relates to my own original songs, there has been an increased awareness of how that whole system works. One thing that I already knew however is that one cannot claim credit for the work of someone else. In writ-



ing it is called plagiarism, but in the music field it is called copyright infringement. Looking at what the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus and Philippi, it is possible for believers to be guilty of copyright infringement. This happens when we take credit for God's work. We are told that "we are His workmanship." Interestingly enough, the word translated *workmanship* comes from a Greek word that means *poem*. That is what one translation literally says; "We have become his *poetry*, a recreated people that will



fulfill the destiny He has given each of us..."(TPT) When a believer takes the credit for the work that God has done, that makes

him/her guilty of copyright infringement.

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi to say that it is the believer's job to

cooperate with the Spirit and work *out* what God works *in*. The NLT puts it this way; "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." What a humbling thought. My desire to please God comes from God and my ability to please Him also comes from Him. *Beware of copyright infringement.*

Spotlight on Our Elders ... Featuring

Evelyn Streeter Rich

For more than fifty years, Mrs. Evelyn Streeter Rich committed her life to education and community causes and activities. She began her career as a classroom instructor, teaching and nurturing young children to develop an inquiring mind to become responsive and productive citizens.

Born in Thomasville, Ala., Rich was the youngest child of Robert Y. and Charyle Rose Streeter. Her elementary and secondary education was received at the area's public schools. After graduating as Salutatorian from Thomasville Public High School, she enrolled in Alabama A&M University and took advantage of all that the University had to offer.

During her professional career, she served as an elementary education classroom teacher at several schools in Alabama, namely, Thomasville Public High School, Thomasville, Ala.; the Thirty-Second Avenue Elementary School and Verner Elementary School in Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Meridianville Elementary School, Meridianville, Ala.; and Hazel Green Elementary

School, Hazel Green, Ala. At the postsecondary level, she served as a demonstration teacher at the Summer Laboratory School, Alabama A&M College, Normal, Ala., and the University of Alabama's Children School, Verner Elementary School Campus, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Her community service became marked with examples of leadership. She was actively affiliated with numerous civic, social and community organizations, including past president of Presbyterian Women.

Others include Golden Charmers, Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Reading Is Fundamental Project (AKA-RIF), Mrs. Rich served as the Chairperson. Under her leadership, the project won the Alabama Small-Site State Champion Award during the RIF Community Challenge, sponsored by the Met-Life Foundation and the National RIF Program, for three consecutive years.

In recognition of her contributions and service to the community, she has received several notable awards.



students in the Fellowship After School Study and Tutorial Program (FASST).

For 10 years of the existence of Epsilon Gamma Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Reading Is Fundamental Project (AKA-RIF), Mrs. Rich served as the Chairperson. Under her leadership, the project won the Alabama Small-Site State Champion Award during the RIF Community Challenge, sponsored by the Met-Life Foundation and the National RIF Program, for three consecutive years.

Mrs. Rich was married to the late Dr. Earlie Rich, her college sweetheart.

APRIL 30 - ISIAH THOMAS. Born in Chicago, former professional basketball player (Detroit Pistons), coach and executive who is an analyst for NBA on TNT.

- Wikipedia.org



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Amid the Cartilage, an Unapologetic Activist with Backbone

by Jerome Saintjones

Self-pride can be hard to come by when you're a young black girl born into a world where every culture seems to matter but your own. However, Erica "Fox" Washington possessed a seed of inner strength and consciousness that pulled her through a period that could have formed an entirely different individual. Born a military child in Grand Forks, North Dakota, Erica grew up in Davis, California, just 14 miles west of Sacramento and home of the 40,000-student University of California, Davis campus.

Although she made up only a sprinkling of blacks in what was otherwise "a mecca of diversity" due to the small town's looming big college aura, Erica said that she thoroughly enjoyed the environment of her childhood.

"I attended a predominantly white Methodist church in this big college town," recalled Erica. "I was introduced to people from so many different countries and all walks of life." Still, as she reflects back over her much younger years, she notes that there was nothing taught about civil rights or black history, outside of the central figures of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks. She would learn appreciative amounts about the Holocaust and Cesar Chavez; would relish her class visits to Pier 39 and Alcatraz; and would see along the way numerous Hell's Angels. But she would learn nothing about the Black Panthers and their integral connection with Oakland, only an hour's drive away. Yet, despite the pre-"We Are the World" pretense of her surroundings, she was one of only two black kids in kindergarten, the only black kid in all her classes in grades 1-6, and among only a handful in junior high. By the time she entered Davis High School, Erica joined a flood of black students—eight, to be exact.

Black faculty and staff were also almost nonexistent.

Hmmm. There was a positive interaction with Mr. Joe Valentine, a principal in the fifth grade (He vanished a year later). Then there was Mr. Robbie Robinson, a black audio-visual director in the library. Robinson also managed the high school radio station, where each Wednesday Erica would introduce her



school mates to airwaves filled with soul and R&B. Even this radical departure by Davis High standards was tempered by her fascination with disc jockeys Wolfman Jack and KFRC's "Dr. Don" Rose.

Nonetheless, Erica views her childhood as one that captured the very essence of an outgoing child who some teachers would write, in notes sent home, could "not be quiet." Also, she believes she found an equal comfort in leading or following, although the seeds of activism were beginning to be sown.

"When I was in the 12th grade, there were these four Vietnamese students in my math class," said Erica. Although they did not speak English well and seemed to huddle to themselves, as if shielding themselves from the mean and racist teacher, she could tell that "they were nice boys." In a horrid incident just before the end of that school

year, on May 4, 1983, a white kid killed Thong Hy Huynh, one of the Vietnamese boys, in what was termed by area media as a racist stabbing. Huynh's mother had moved her family to Davis because she thought it would be a safe place for her eldest to gain an education. Erica participated in an organized memorial run

to raise money to contribute to the boy's family.

She believes that shocking event put her on a path toward the world a better place.

However, the life-altering death at Davis High nearly 40 years ago was followed by a relatively calm college experience at her beloved Alabama A&M University. A&M was a major college choice as far back as the 10th grade, she remembered, because it was located in a city where nearly her entire mother's side of the family resided. She found the mid-1980s a fun-filled, fascinating time to be a student on "The Hill."

"I attended A&M from 1983-88, and I don't recall any real issues, protests or rallies," said Erica, drifting into a flashback with Cameo performing virtually on her mental stage. "The '80s were a time to cherish." There might have been some things hap-

pening in the city, she added, but The Hill was somewhat insulated from that back then. Not only did she leave the traditional, corps-style band routine taught to her by Robert Gonzales back at Davis High, but AAMU had stuffed her clarinet with a fierce show-band style in true HBCU tradition. That's why to this very day she considers

retired AAMU band director Arthur Wesley a chief mentor, along with English professors Dr. Mattie Thomas and the late Gladys C. Nance.

What AAMU lacked in activism at that particular moment, though, it more than made up for in African-American history and black consciousness. She learned a great deal from AAMU histo-

rian and poet Anne Rutledge, who informed Erica that Emancipation did not free all of the slaves, and she even learned some precious nuggets about the black history of Huntsville. That enthusiasm for black history and information on the black struggle was also fed by some of her family members.

See *ERICA*, Page 8

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

Thru May 23

"Encounters"

Althea Murphy Price

Huntsville Museum of Art

hsvmuseum.org

Car and Truck Show

Sharon Johnston Park

New Market, Ala.

8 a.m.-3 p.m.

2021 Members' Showcase

5:30-7 p.m.

Thru July 4

Exhibit

"Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys"

Sponsors: Burritt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, Ala.

The Burritt Museum

Comedian Rickey Smiley

Stand Up Live

Huntsville, Ala.

May 2

Sunday Serenade Featuring

The Robs

Stovehouse

3414 Governors Drive

Huntsville, Ala. - 4-7 p.m.

May 4

Adult Bereavement Group

The Caring House

203 Longwood

Huntsville, Ala.

5:30 -6:45 p.m.

May 8

Opening Day

2021 Gala Art Exhibition

Huntsville Museum of Art

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

May 13

Opening Reception Hunts-

ville Photographic Society

May 15

Senior Center's Spring 2021

Craft & Vendor Market-

place - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

"The Scottsboro Boys Remembered"

Lecture Series and Exhibit Tours

Burritt on the Mountain

and Rosenwald School

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

May 19

Dedication of Historic Markers Honoring Huntsville Women

Sponsor: League of Women Voters of the Tennessee Valley

YMCA Building

203 Greene Street

Huntsville, Ala. - 1 p.m.

May 23

Sidetracks Music Hall

415 Church Street NW

Huntsville, Ala.

6-8 p.m.

ERICA: The Unapologetic Activist *(Continued from Page 7)*

While a student at Tennessee State University (then known as Tennessee Agricultural & Industrial State University) her father, Dr. Derek S. Washington, protested segregated Woolworth counters with the late Congressman John R. Lewis; her aunt, Ms. Ethel Williamson, participated in sit-ins at Central State University; and her uncle Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs attended American Baptist Theological Seminary, protested, rallied and marched with Lewis and the late Rev. C.T. Vivian.

The hunger for black history and the black struggle continued to feed Erica by the means of HBCUs. For instance, when she worked at the campus radio station at cross-state rival Alabama State University, which was managed at the time by a fellow AAMU alumnus, Erica made a request to cover a reenactment of the historic Selma to Montgomery march

and to report the event back to the station. During the process, she became familiar with the event organizers, among them Shirley Floyd, who over subsequent years boosted Erica's involvement and gave her an even more prominent role in the organization of the marchers, preparing resolutions and other activities.

Perhaps her passion for voting rights stems from those strong Selma connections. Although she regrets that many young African Americans know little about the key, old figures from the voting rights era, she believes such unawareness can be easily changed into an eagerness to learn black history through the

right approach.

"They do know about Trayvon Martin," said Erica. "So, you inform them on how a proactive voting campaign possibly could have thwarted what became Florida's Stand Your Ground law; enabling Trayvon to still be alive today."

Erica is also passionate about issues such as police reform and participated in what she said was a peaceful rally in Huntsville in summer 2020 that was provocatively met with tear gas and rubber bullets. Still, today's young activists offer her a sense of hope because of their seriousness and perseverance. She said that it is because of them that George Floyd's



death is making a difference throughout the world. After some local college student voting snafus in 2017, she wanted to be a part of the solution and was among the first to volunteer for AAMU's Civic Engagement Committee organized by Dr. Gary Crosby, vice president of student affairs, and led by staffer Monica Clarke.

Erica and the Committee moderated a pool of HBCUs in a Power of HER Vote virtual discussion in mid-August 2020 that served as a chance to galvanize women, students and women of color at the ballot box. The virtual discussion, and salute to Fannie Lou Hamer, acknowledged the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment and Suffrage Act. The activity was the catalyst of motivation for young women from Spelman, Florida A&M and other HBCUs.

Later, a festive voter registration event in the local Calvary

Hill neighborhood one day was met with suspicion, perhaps because of COVID-19 reservations, but Erica moves on and says there is still much work to be done. She understands that sometimes movements have to undergo a certain ripeness. Some injustices squeeze by only because all of the elements for change have not matured and maneuvered into place.

"There's no turning back now, though," Erica said. "Laws are already changing. Flags are coming down. Monuments are being removed to their proper places." Although the numbers of protesters may have died down some, Erica said there is "a core group of us" that is deciding what conversations to bring to city hall. Sometimes she becomes so inundated with civic events that she is the first to admit that she doesn't always get enough sleep. "There are so many e-mails, social

media and Zooms of which I am a part," she explains. All of this is coupled with her long-time radio activism.

"Black college radio stations can have a special role in the sharing of the diverse views that people need to hear. They have to be inclusive and bring all views and all walks of life to the table, showing the other side of the minority perspective," she said. "Young people are amped up because they recognize and own that it is their turn now to lead. We are not stopping. Our clergy is not stopping. Strategy is continuing locally. Marches are still going on around the nation as people deal with the issues that concern them," Erica stated.

"Black Lives Matter. Our votes matter," she said. "We have to keep boots on the ground and voices in the air. We have to carry the blood-stained banner."

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